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HISTORY  
OF  
STODDARD

CHESHIRE COUNTY, N. H.

BY

ISAAH GOULD.





# HISTORY OF STODDARD

CHESHIRE COUNTY, N. H.

From the time of its Incorporation in

1774 to 1854,

A period of 80 years.

With some sketches from its first settlement in 1768

BY

ISMAEL GOULD.

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PUBLISHED BY

MRS. MARIA A. (GOULD) GIFFIN,

KEENE, N. H.

—O—

MARLBORO', N. H.

W. L. METCALF, STEAM JOB PRINTER.

1897.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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It was in the Autumn of 1852 the Author began to collect materials, and to prepare the work, that he now offers to his fellow townsmen, embracing some of the events that comprise the History of the Town. At that time, it was not his intention, to extend his investigations any further than to gratify his own curiosity.

Having procured a loan of the first vol. of the Town Records and in perusing it, found some of the transactions of our forefathers, that might be interesting and useful, not only to the present, but to future generations, and being impressed with the conviction, that duty to posterity requires, that some one should prepare a work that should embrace some of the deeds of our ancestors, and of the first settlers of the town, that they might be preserved from the shades of oblivion to which they are fast hastening ; with these considerations in view, and the earnest solicitations of several valuable friends, the compiler undertook the difficult task.

In preparing a history of the Town at this late period, serious obstacles are to be met with, the old

inhabitants are gone, no records have been kept and the town books are very deficient in furnishing the information that is essential towards accomplishing the work, in fact no records are found previous to the town incorporation. We have but little to rely upon, but the memory of the aged citizens, and such events as have been handed down to succeeding generations by their ancestors. By the aid and assistance of some of the older people, who have cheerfully communicated such information as was in their possession ; the following pages are presented to the public, hoping that something may be found in them, that will be gratifying, instructive and useful, if so, that will be a great recompense for the labor bestowed upon it.

That errors will occur, is very presumable It cannot be otherwise, since so much depends upon mere recollection. It has been the author's aim, to present everything correctly, and to express all subjects he intended to relate, in plain and familiar terms ; and has not dwelt on any thing in order to increase the number of pages, beyond the necessary limits; nor has he in any case, made comments on what actually transpired.

A notice of the early settlers, will be very imperfect since so few of them, were known to the present inhabitants, their names and residences in many cases, have been preserved, but nothing definite in regard to their history has been obtained.

Most of the names that are inserted, have come under the writer's recollections and have been gathered from the intercourse, with his fellow citizens in times past.

The want of a more thorough education, and an experience in historical writing, have been a severe obstacle, in giving taste and accuracy, to the subjects he was about to relate, but would ask the reader, to cast the mantle of charity over the errors and imperfections, and comply with an old adage "To eat the flesh and throw the bones away."

THE AUTHOR.



# HISTORY OF STODDARD,

CHESHIRE COUNTY, N. H.

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**T**HE town of STODDARD lies at the north east corner of the County of Cheshire, is bounded on the North by Washington, on the east by Antrim and a part of Windsor, south by Nelson and on the west by a part of Sullivan, Gilsum and Marlow.

It contains at the present time 185 dwelling houses, 263 legal voters and in 1850, 1105 inhabitants which is a gain of 99 the last ten years.

The center of the town is nineteen miles from Keene by the stage road, thirteen miles from the railroad station at Hillsboro Bridge, twenty-five miles from East Wilton railroad and about the same distance from the railroad at Mason Village.

The town as originally laid out, began at the north east corner of Nelson and running northerly 20 degrees east five miles, thence north 25 degrees two miles, thence east 10 degrees south seven miles thence southerly 21 degrees west two miles, thence south 15 degrees west five miles, thence on Nelson line to the first bound. The lines of the town, are not at right angles of course. It was laid out in lots 160 rods in length and 80 rods in width, and contain 80 acres each. It contains 448 lots and 35840 acres, the lot lines run parallel with the town lines consequently the lots are not square.

In the north west corner of the town, a tract of land, about two miles from north to south, and one and a half from east to west was laid out, without any regard to form, or size of lots.

In 1786 two miles square was taken from the south west corner of the town, and constitutes a part of Sullivan. In 1835 on the petition of Ebenezer Tarbox, who had no access to Stoddard, but by a circuitous route through Nelson, a strip of land, belonging to him and his sons, one mile in length, and a half mile in width, was annexed to Nelson by an act of the Legislature. This of course, makes another indentation in the territory of the south west part of the town. These are the only alterations that have been made in the town lines.

A contention arose early, between the proprietors of Marlow and Stoddard, concerning a strip of land on the west side of this town, that caused much strife and many law suits, and was not settled till the year 1805. It was adjusted by a referee, and decided in favor of this town. Marlow claimed a strip from the west side of the town extending to about the middle of the 13th range, which would contain more than 7500 acres.

In 1791 a petition was presented to the town, asking it to set off the east part of the town to be incorporated into the town of Windsor. Another for the same purpose was presented in 1794.

A petition was got up, to set off three tier of lots, from the south side of the town, to be annexed to Packersfield (Nelson) in 1802.

In 1846 a petition was presented to the selectmen



asking the town to disannex a strip of land on the west side of the town, about one mile wide, that the same might be added to Marlow. Voted in favor of it 8, against it 115. A compromise was affected by the town laying out and making a piece of road leading to Marlow, for the better accommodation of that part of the town, called "Leominster Corner."

The town was incorporated in 1774, and named in honor of Col. Sampson Stoddard of Chelmsford one of the principle proprietors.

It is generally understood that, previous to the act of incorporation, it was called Limerick; but I find no reliable authority that favors the supposition.

Among the first settlers, some were directly from old Ireland, and many others were descendants of those that came from that country. It is presumed that they having that attachment for their native land, which has ever characterized that people, named their adopted township after a favorite city in the Emerald Isle. But we find another name Stoddard was known by, which comes from a more authentic source. In the Charter from King George we find the following paragraph. "Whereas our Loyal Subjects inhabitants of a tract of land, within our province of New-Hampshire aforesaid, commonly called and known by the name of Monadnock number seven." This name was given to eight townships in the vicinity of the Monadnock mountain, which were numbered Monadnock No. 1, 2, &c. Rindge was Monadnock No. 1, Jaffrey No. 2, Dublin No. 3, Fitzwilliam No. 4, Troy and Marlboro No. 5, Nelson No. 6, Stoddard No. 7, and Washington No. 8.

In recording some of the events that transpired in the early settlement of the town; we have to notice no acts of Indian hostility, no terrors from the savage yell, and the hideous war whoop, no villages consigned to the flames, nor instances of human victims slaughtered, or led captive by the savage foe. There is no evidence that Indians ever inhabited this place. But instead of the indian with his savage cruelty, the first settlers often heard the cries of the Panther and Wild Cat, the howling of the Wolf, and his kindred companions that roamed over the forest.

Whether it was in pursuit of game, or to find a home for themselves and their posterity, that brought the first settlers into this town, tradition has never told us. Probably the first person that ever entered the wilderness, and cleared the first land in town, was a Scotchman by the name of Kenedy, was on the farm owned by Timothy Hunt (The John D. Copeland place) a little south of where his buildings stand. The stream that passes near where his hut was built, took its name from him, and to this day is called "Kenedy brook."

Another person, by the name of Bartlett, built a camp by the side of a large rock, that may be seen on the south side of the road, as we pass from Henry Stevens' house to Hervey Wilson's. He remained there about two years, and was probably the first person that was in town over winter. He disappeared suddenly, and it was never known what became of him.

The first permanent settler was John Taggart, who came from Peterboro in 1768. Located as he

was, at so great a distance from any inhabitants in a new and sterile country, and in a cold and tempestuous latitude, his sufferings and hardships were very severe, far greater, than any other individual.

But we pass for the present, to the act of incorporation, and the proceedings of the town in its corporate capacity.

Very little is known of the town prior to this time.

The town records are entirely silent, as to giving any information of the place, and its transactions, until its incorporation. All that is known, is what has been handed down by oral communication, at the fireside, and in the social circle, to the generations that have succeeded the first settlers. It has been said, it was incorporated in 1774. It contained at that time 224 inhabitants and in 1780, it had 50 families. In 1790 it had 701 inhabitants. The next ten years, the increase was greater, after the close of the Revolutionary war, many young men who had been in the army, were out of employment, and sought a home in the wild and uncultivated regions of the new world; not a few of them, found a residence in Stoddard. In 1800 the town contained 1148 inhabitation, almost as great a number as it has contained at any time since.

A copy of the charter is inserted, as a document that would be interesting to the present and future generations.

Province of New Hampshire. { George the third by the Grace  
of God of Great Britain, France  
and Ireland King, defender of  
the faith &c.

To all people to whom these presents shall come.

Greeting:

WHEREAS, Our loyal subjects inhabitants of a tract of land within our Province of New Hampshire, aforesaid, commonly called, and known by the name of Monadnock number seven, containing by estimation, about six miles square ; have humbly petitioned and requested us that they may be erected and incorporated into a township and enfranchised with the same powers and privileges, which other towns within our said Province by law have and enjoy, and is adjudged by us to be conducive to the general good of our said Province, as well as of the said inhabitants in particular, by maintaining good order and encouraging the culture of the land the same should be done.

Know ye that we of our special Graces certain knowledge, and for the encouragement and promotion of good purposes and ends, aforesaid, by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved John Wentworth Esquire ; Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province, and of our council of the same, have erected and ordained, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors. Do, will and ordain, that the inhabitants of the said tract of land, and others who shall improve and inhabit therein hereafter, the same being butted and bounded as follows. Beginning at the north west corner of Packersfield (Nelson)

at the patent line so called, from thence running northerly by said patent line, seven miles, to a stake and stones, from thence south 80 degrees. East, seven miles, to a beech tree marked ; from thence south 21 degrees west, two miles to a stake and stones, from thence south 15 degrees west, five miles, to a stake in the pond, called rye pond in the line of Packersfield aforesaid, from thence north 80 degrees, west seven miles by said Packersfield to the bound first mentioned, be and they are hereby declared to be a town incorporated, by the name of Stoddard, to have continuance forever, with all the powers and authorities, privileges, immunities, franchises which any other town in our said Province by law, hold, and enjoy, to the said inhabitants, or those who shall hereafter inhabit these and to their successors forever, always reserving to us, our heirs, successors all white pine trees, that are, or shall be found, being and growing within and upon the said tract of land, fit for the use of our Royal Navy, reserving also unto us, our heirs and successors, the power of dividing said town when it shall appear necessary and convenient for the inhabitants thereof.

*Provided,* Nevertheless, and is hereby declared, that this charter and grant, is not intended and shall not in any manner continue to effect the private property of the soil within the limits aforesaid and as the several towns within our said province are, by the laws thereof enabled and authorized to assemble and by the majority of voters present, to choose officers, transact such affairs as in the said laws are directed.

We do by these presents nominate and appoint Oliver Parker to call the first meeting of the said inhabitants, to be held within the said town, at any time within sixty days from the date hereof, giving legal notice of the time and design of holding such meeting, after which the annual meeting for said town shall be held for the choice of town officers, and purposes aforesaid, on the last Thursday in the month of March annually.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our aforesaid Governor, Commander in Chief the fourth day of November in the fifteenth year of our Reign Annoque Domine  
1774.

J. WENTWORTH.

By his Excellency's command with advice of Council.

THEODORE ATKINSON, Secretary.

It appears, that Oliver Parker, was appointed to call the first town meeting under the charter. It was accordingly held at his dwelling house, on the first day of December 1774, and was organized by choosing Oliver Parker, moderator, town clerk and first selectman, Jonathan Bennet and Silas Wright were the other selectmen.

Chose Joseph Dodge and Andrew Boynton constables, all, were to hold their office till the annual meeting in March following. This was all the business, that was found necessary to be done at that meeting, it was accordingly dismissed.

Annual town meetings, were held on the last Thursday in March till 1786; they were then held on the first Monday in March till 1804, since that time, they have been held on the second Tuesday.

All town meetings, were warned by a Constable until 1805.

The town was first settled, by a hardy, robust and energetic race of men. No hardships were too severe, to be endured, and, no difficulties too desperate to be overcome. Their means of comfort and convenience were few; and their necessities and wants, were beyond their reach. Located as they were, at so great a distance from the older settled towns, without roads or any means of conveyance, hardship was unavoidable.

The only article of barter, that the early inhabitants dealt in, to any amount, was Salts. These were made by falling and rolling together the large trees of the forest, and burning them to ashes, the ashes were leached, and the ley boiled down, (as sugar is made at the present day) and made into

salts, which were carried (frequently on a hand sled) to the store, and exchanged for such articles as necessity compelled them to purchase.

The articles of necessity, at that period, were few, compared with those purchased at the present time. Barrels of flour. Carpets and Broad cloths, were among the things that were never thought of. Their bread was made of such grain, as their fields produced, principally Rye and Corn. If they wanted a little nicer cake or pie crust, some rye meal was sifted through "the fine sive" and made with more care.

The principal food for children, and much for the older people, consisted of bread and milk, bean porridge and other broths were a common dish. Tea and Coffee, were used with a sparing hand; never but once a day, and then, was confined to heads of families, domestics and visitors.

The carpets were usually "the soft side of a board," without paint; and even a plane, was not always used on them. The dress of people, was simple and cheap. It might, truly be called "the age of homespun", this every day dress was composed of a striped frock and trowsers. Most men and boys wore leather aprons. Boots were very rare, leggins, knit of woolen yarn, were generally wore to exclude the snow from their feet, and tied over the shoe, sometimes the legs of the pantaloons were long enough to tie over the shoe. Boys and some men, wore a cap on their head, in the shape of a cone, it was made to fit the head, and run to a point, twelve or fifteen inches above it. They were usually made of strips of cloth of different colors,



perhaps red and black or any other color, which would give them quite an imposing appearance. Aged men, those who were wealthy, and of the first class in society, usually wore for a Sabbath-day suit, small clothes (breeches) that would come below the knee and confined with a silver buckle, long stockings and shoes with a huge buckle on the instep. Those who wore boots, had a white top, that came half way down the leg, the rim of the hat was quite large and cocked up on three sides.

The every day dress of females, consisted of a short loose gown, and a quilted petticoat and checkered apron. Most women would have a pair of shoes with high wood heels, an inch and a half high, that were worn occasionally. Both men and women went barefoot much of the time, while at home.

## HOUSES.

It was in this town, as it usually is in all new settlements, the first houses were built of round timber, the chimney and fire-place were of stone and the top laid with sticks and clay, frequently the oven was built without any connection with the house, by the side of a large rock, the Hovel (as the barn was called) was built of the same material as the house, this was to shelter their cattle, hay was put up in stacks; both house and hovel were covered with spruce bark. But the log houses mostly disappeared in this town many years ago, and they were entirely gone, until the Glass companies went into operation. They hired their wood choppers from Canada, and emigrants from the old

Country, who built themselves Shanties, some of which were of the same construction of the old log house. Very few of the early settlers could boast of a frame house, for their first residence. And at a later period, when the frame house was common they were anything, but being warm and convenient. It was considered sufficiently finished to be comfortable when the covering and finish consisted of one thickness of boards "champhered" at the edges. They mostly contained two rooms, and a chamber, which was entered by means of a ladder. The chamber window was made by sawing a board out at the gable end and a strip of board nailed across it, and was left open in the summer season, and in fair weather. A huge fire place extended nearly across one room. At that time, wood was of no consequence, the more of it that could be burned, the better people liked it. The fireplace was so large, and so constructed, that large back logs, such as could not be split readily, were dug out of the snow and rolled into the house. (And instances have been known when they were drawn in with a horse) All the wood that was on the fire, was drawn forward, and the log rolled in its place, in the back part of the chimney, and another, generally a little less, placed on the top of it. By this operation, the house would be filled with smoke, and the children be shivering with cold at the back part of the room. When the fire "got low," the "back stick" was rolled forward, often on large rocks, instead of andirons, and another green one put in its place. Wood houses were unknown, and dry wood was among the things that were never thought of.

The social feelings, and friendship of the first inhabitants were very strong, they had great respect for each other, for morality and the ordinances of religion; and almost every family, was in the habit of constantly attending upon the services of the sanctuary, on the Sabbath days. Whilst I am writing, methinks, I can see in imagination one of the venerable Patriarchs of the town in olden times, riding up to the stone horse block at the west end of the old meeting house with his wife seated behind him on a pillion, upon the back of the old farm horse, and frequently with a child in her arms; while others of the family would walk. The boys and girls, even; would walk from the most remote parts of the town to meeting on the sabbath, and thought it no hardship.

Boys would go barefoot, while the girls wore their every day stockings and shoes, and would carry a better pair to put on, when they got almost there, the other pair would be deposited, in some safe place in the wall or bushes, till after meeting, and then they would be exchanged again.

When people were at church, they paid close attention to the exercises, and children were required after they arrived at home, to tell "where the text was," and with many families, the Lord's Prayer, the catechism and commandments, were repeated.

The minister was held in high esteem, he was considered far superior to any of the congregation, not only on the sabbath, but on all other days of the week. It was considered unmannerly in a high degree, for a person to meet him on the highway without taking his hat off. Boys too, were sure to

receive a chastisement from their parents if they did not take their hats off, and make a bow when they were spoken to by their minister.

In the winter season, the first inhabitants suffered many inconveniences, trials and hardships, that the present generation knows nothing of.

Located as they were, on the height of land between the two principle rivers in New Hampshire, the snow fell uncommonly deep, the roads led over the highest hills, the wind was boisterous, and the storms severe. Under these circumstances a ride from the most remote parts of the town, would be anything but pleasant. Nor was this all; the meeting house was situated on high ground, without any means of warming it. Many are the times, that a family would ride four miles to meeting, without a buffalo in their sleigh, or sufficient clothing, to keep a person from suffering at the present day, and sit there through long exercises, and return again, to their homes, without seeing fire.

#### ROADS.

Roads were of the most desperate kind. They were made without any regard to hills; but most usually over the highest; for the reason, that people cleared their first land on high ground, for it ensured a better crop, and built their houses where their cleared land was.

In laying out roads, the only object was, to pass from one neighbor to another, for their own convenience.

In the winter season, the snow fell deep and much drifted. At such times, the public highways would

be left, and the travel would be "across lots," without anything for a guide but stumps or some object. The fences were covered with snow, but they were determined not to be "shut up," and never despaired of having a road.

An aged citizen was heard to say, "he had broke roads every day in the week, from where he lived, (in the westerly part of the town) to Col. Evens' and gone home, on Saturday night, without seeing a track."

The first public highway that led through town, came from Hancock. It entered town at the south east corner of it, by rye pond, came past the Nath'l Barrett place to John Wilson's after following where the road now is 40 or 50 rods, went a north west direction to Jesse Wilder's and Joel Shedd's and to Harrison Dunn's still continuing a north west course by Abel Adams' to the Col. Evens' place so on by Jerome Messenger's and Reed Shedd's and on to South Marlow.

At quite an early period, the road from John Wilson's continued north nearly in a straight line over Mount Stoddard, passed the Joshua Reed place, to nearly where Esq. Fox's buildings stand, from thence to the Noah Barden place, thence a north west direction to the present village. This road with several others was laid by the proprietors of the town. It was common with them to give names to certain places where they laid a road. That part of this road where Daniel Upton lives called "Queen street". It was known by this name until the inhabitants left, and the buildings reduced to the dwelling house and barns of the present

occupant. Other streets were named viz. King Street, High Street, Protection Street, &c.

Where they were located I have no means of knowing.

The place where Weeks & Gilson's Tavern and Glass factory stand was called "the city," from the same authority. A Turnpike was in agitation, called the Hancock turnpike, and was to pass through this town, about the year 1807. The town voted to take one mile and a half of this road to build, beginning at the common, near the center schoolhouse, from thence running a south east course; and have it completed, as soon as the other part was made by the corporation. No part of it was made.

As population increased, and business considerably enlarged; another road was built in 1811 called the "County road." It came from Hancock, nearly on the same ground, of the former, to what is called Barrett's bridge, from thence to Charles Sawyer's and continued a northerly course to Wm. Robb's and over mount Stoddard, with some alterations to the meeting house. Previous to this a road had been built across the "Bog" where it is now travelled. But still the road was not on the best ground, and the public were not satisfied.

In 1830 the Forest road was laid by a courts committee consisting of Phineas Henderson of Keene; Samuel M. Richardson of Pelham and Joseph Weeks of Richmond. It was a continuous route from Charlestown, through Stoddard, Hancock and Greenfield to Nashua. It entered the town, near the northwest part of it, passing through the middle and running a diagonal course to the south east

corner by Rye pond, making between nine and ten miles of nearly all new road, at a cost of about \$3625.

The next year, 1831, a committee appointed by the court, consisting of Jonathan Gove of Acworth, Joseph Weeks of Richmond and Oliver Prescott of Jaffrey, laid out what is called the Keene and Concord road. This road passes through the corners of the towns of Roxbury, Sullivan, Nelson and Stoddard, and through an almost uninhabited part of all of them, consequently, it was met by a powerful opposition from each town. It enters Stoddard at the head of Factory pond, running a northeasterly direction to Antrim line, making more than five miles of entirely new road.

The ends of this road viz. from Nelson line to L. Gould's and from the south village to Antrim line, were made in 1831; the remainder was built in 1836.

There have been many alterations in the roads of later years, to avoid hills, and better accommodate the traveling public.

In 1832 a road was made from Joseph Knight's to the road, east of Col. Wilson's also from near the brook east of Marshal Messenger's to the Bog schoolhouse; which was a great improvement from the old one, with several other smaller alterations in different parts of the town, that I shall not notice.

The road from Mill Village to Antrim, was thoroughly repaired, and considerably altered, in 1852 and 1853, at a cost of over 2800 dollars. An arch stone bridge, was built across the stream near Antrim line, the only bridge of the kind in town.

As the highways have been removed to lower ground, many of the back roads, were completely

blocked up with snow during the winter season, and were not much repaired in the summer. The occupants, of many of the farms, found the necessity of leaving, and turning them to a pasture.

The greatest misfortune the town ever experienced has been, in so many of the citizens leaving town, and so much of the land, being in possession of non-resident owners. More than one-third of the lots, that were settled and occupied by families, forty years ago; many of them industrious and enterprising men, are now destitute of inhabitants and the farms turned to a pasture.

#### SCHOOLS.

The town is divided into ten school districts, which contain about 275 scholars each year.

The people here, began early to provide means for the educating of their children.

The first appropriation for that purpose, was in 1780. Voted, in town meeting, to raise 60 bushels of rye, or the value thereof, for schooling.

In 1781, voted to raise 1000 pounds continental money for schooling, equal to 3333 dollars and 33 cents. Appropriations were made most of the years afterwards, but not so large. The next year, voted to raise 30 pounds, for the use of schools. From 1800 to 1808, the town raised 100 pounds each year for schooling.

In late years, it has been the practice of the town not to raise more money than is required by law.

In 1816 the town raised 100 dollars in addition to the requirements of law. In 1840 raised 100 dollars to be divided equally among the several school districts.



For many years the town has received annually something over fifty dollars, of a literary fund, which is a tax on bank capital to be appropriated for schooling. This town usually divides it equally among the districts.

We find nothing in regard to school houses till 1792. The town voted "that the town be squadroned anew, and build each squadron a school house."

Previous to this, schools, were kept in private houses. How schools were kept, and who the teachers were, we have but little knowledge. Master Obadiah Parker is still spoken of, by some of our aged people, as a very excellent teacher, and a fine man. He was frequently employed to teach the schools; and in one year, kept out all the money in town; going from one district to another, till he had gone through the town.

A sketch of some of the practices of school management within the recollection of the writer, may not be uninteresting. The first school I recollect of attending, was kept in a barn, the school house having been burnt a short time before, another was soon built, and the method of procuring firewood, deserves notice.

About the time school was to commence, a gallon or two of rum was procured (paid for out of the school money of course) and notice given for the men and boys belonging to the district "to turn out and get wood for the school", some with axes and others with their oxen. Whole trees were drawn with a chain (twisted up) and left as they were drawn, for the large boys, to cut and split, as they were wanted for use.

When this method was not taken; some one would engage to furnish wood for the school, for a certain price by the week. The wood was always green, and all the boys who were large enough to build the fire, would take turns in doing it, cut their own wood, and tend the fire through the day.

The inhabitants took measures, early to provide some person "to look after their schools", but we find no school committees appointed till 1812, since then a variety of modes have been adopted for that purpose. The committee in 1812 were Rev. Isaac Robinson, Moody Cutter, Aaron Matson. 1813, Isaac Robinson, Nahum Ward, Lucas Thompson. 1814, I. Robinson, Moody Cutter, L. Thompson. 1815, I. Robinson, L. Thompson, Nathan Gould. 1816, None appointed. 1817, I. Robinson, L. Thompson, Wm. D. Mathews. 1818, I. Robinson, M. Cutter, Hermon Fisher. 1819, 20 and 21, I. Robinson and two in each district. 1822, Rev. Isaac Robinson. 1823, One man in each district, chosen by the district. 1824, I. Robinson and one in each district. 1825, 6 & 7, I. Robinson and two in each district. 1828, Voted that each district choose their own. 1829, One in each district. 1830, 31 and 32, None chosen. 1833 & 4, Voted to dispense with the services of the superintending school committee as far as examining schools is concerned. From 1834 to 1843, no committees chosen, an alteration in the law was made, and in 1843, Rev. Wm. S. Cilley, Dr. Josiah Fleeman, Dr. Hervey Fisher, Com. 1844, Rev. I. Robinson, Dr. J. Fleeman, Dr. H. Fisher. 1845, H. Fisher, J. Fleeman, Sumner Knight. 1846, I. Robinson, Rev. Asa Spaulding, James H. Scott. 1847,

I. Robinson, A. Spaulding, J. Fleeman. 1848, Isaiah Gould, Sumner Knight, John N. Whiton Jr. 1849, I. Gould, S. Knight, J. Fleeman. 1850, Sumner Knight, Dr. Ira F. Prouty, Chester A. Blodget. 1851, S. Knight, Rev. J. Britton, J. M. Whiton, Jr. 1852, Sumner Knight. 1853, Dr. Frederick A. Carpenter. Dr. Carpenter died, Sumner Knight was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In 1790 a number of the citizens, formed an association by the name of the Stoddard Social Library, for the improvement of the intellectual faculties of the people; and the next year (1800) it received an act of incorporation.

The library was composed of about 175 volumes of valuable books. It was frequently enlarged, by an assessment on its members. It was under proper restrictions, and good regulations, and was read with much interest; but as newspapers, became more common; Periodicals and other books much cheaper; the library was neglected, the proprietors inattentive, the annual meeting was not attended; and in 1838, it ceased to exist, as a corporate body.

The books, most of them, have been scattered among the proprietors and perhaps others, without any regular division.

#### MEETING HOUSES.

The project of locating and building a meeting house, was before the town, at a very early period, in 1775 it was debated in town meeting. A house was built about that time, by Oliver Parker. It stood at the top of the hill 40 or 50 rods south of Gardner Towne's house, whether he built it for the

town is uncertain. The town owned it, however, and in 1783, voted to move it, in front of the old Towne's house (where Gardner lives) and use it as long as they see fit; and then, Capt. Towne (Esq. Israel probably) agrees to pay what it is worth and appropriate the amount, towards building a new one. Whether it was moved or not is not known; but it was sold at auction in 1789. John Taggart was the purchaser, for nine pounds and two shillings (about 30 dollars) and converted it into a dwelling house and it stood a little north of Chester A. Blodget's house and is at the present time, a part of Sterns Foster's blacksmith shop.

The proprietors of the town put up the frame of a meeting house, and covered the outside; but it was never finished.

The people were much divided in their opinion upon the propriety of repairing the old meeting house or building a new one; previous to the time the old house was sold.

In 1779 was a town meeting, to see if the town will accept the proposals of Oliver Parker, concerning the meeting house he built. The subject was before the town till 1784. Voted to build a meeting house the same bigness of the one in Packersfield, and have it finished within three years; and chose a committee of five to draw a plan, and empowered them to sell the pews, at the same time, petition the Legislature for some assistance, accordingly an act was passed, authorizing the town to lay a tax of one penny per acre, on all the land lying in town for three years; one half, to be appropriated towards building a meeting house

They immediately went about building one. It was raised some time in September 1784, and the spectators were entertained at the expense of the town while raising it. That was the last that was said about building a meeting house.

The next difficulty arose in regard to finishing it but this was not accomplished without much deliberation and difficulty; and probably, had to resort to law. In 1790 the town voted to send to Peterboro for Jeremiah Smith, for advice on some dispute in regard to the subject. At another meeting, the town voted to finish the out side and paint it, and give the pew ground, to any man or men, who would finish the inside. It was taken by twelve men, citizens of the town, who completed the house for the pews.

The old meeting house (as it has recently been called) was built by the town and finished by individuals, consequently, it was both public and private property. It was used by the town for all public business and kept in repair, at the town's expense.

The Universalist Society claimed, as their right, the privilege of occupying it a certain number of Sabbaths in each year; which was a small number usually. They afterwards claimed a number, equal to their proportion of taxes; which was always granted by the town, and the society stately occupying it. The Universalist society using it much of the time; the other society had no convenient place to hold their meetings; beside the house was getting out of repair, with no means of warming it; so much so that for several winters it was entirely unoccupied. With these difficulties in view, in 1835

the Orthodox society took measures to build themselves a new house. A committee was chosen consisting of Isaiah Gould, Luke Joslin and Heman Evans, who were to report a plan, and location.

The next year, 1830, the house now occupied by that society, was built on the spot reported by the committee, with a little alteration from the plan proposed; at a cost of something over two thousand dollars exclusive of the bell.

The Universalist society not satisfied with using the old meeting house as it was, soon went about building one for themselves, and in 1838 they built the elegant brick church at the lower end of the village, with a basement story which in 1841 the town purchased for 400 dollars and fitted it for the use of the town, where all town meetings are held.

This is the only brick building in town.

The old meeting house, on the hill, stood some years exposed to the winds and storms, and was then sold at auction. Nathan Morse was the purchaser at about one hundred dollars, and converted it into his present dwelling house.

#### STORES.

The first store in town was kept by Col. Nath'l Evens' at his place of residence, two miles west of the village. It would be unreasonable to suppose, that he kept as great a variety as is found in most country stores at the present time. He sold his goods to Gardner Towne and they were moved, to what, then was called the middle of the town.

About that time Esq. Emerson opened a store in his dwelling house; where Abner Knowlton, Esq.

now lives. Mr. Towne put his goods into what was long known "as the white house" nearly opposite to where Gardner Towne, Jr.'s house now is. He afterwards moved three-fourths of a mile farther east, where the middle of the town was finally established, and kept the only store in town for many years.

Joseph Emerson filled the store he left on the hill, and traded on a large scale, but failed, and left town. John Evens built a store between G. Towne's and A. Knowlton's house, which was filled by Asa Evens and his son (John) in 1803. He did not continue in business but about two years. It was not filled again till 1815. Wm. D. Mathews and Abijah Hadley, from Hancock, filled it; after trading a year Mr. Hadley left and went back to Hancock, and Frances Matson became a partner with Mr. Mathews, they however soon relinquished trade.

In 1818 David Lowe and Isaac Duncan, also from Hancock, filled the same store with a good assortment of goods. At the decease of Esq. Towne, Mrs. Towne kept his goods, and traded some time, they were then sold at auction, and Lowe and Duncan moved their goods into the Towne's store.

After trading a few years, Lowe left and returned to Hancock. Duncan continued business several years, then relinquished trade.

Previous to this, a store was kept by John Barden, on rather a small scale, in an old building, which was used also for his dwelling house, on the spot where Scripture and Whiton's store now stands.

Barden traded between 1803 and 1813 when he died.

At the time Lowe and Duncan were in trade,

Reuben and Silas Butterfield from Chelmsford, purchased the school house, standing between the old tavern stand and the burying ground, and fitted it up for a store. After trading some years, they enlarged the building and continued business several years longer; when they sold their goods at auction, and Silas left, and went to Dunstable (now Nashua) Henry Melville, Esq. from Nelson, filled the store, and Upton Burnap was sent as salesman. Their trade continued but one year, when Reuben Butterfield purchased the goods, and soon after sold to Otis Barden, and he to Joel W. Eaton.

Mr. Barden built, and fitted, a store in 1830 at the place now owned by Luther Abbott; but his trade was not of long duration.

Mr. Eaton continued trade in the Butterfield store till the business was moved to the foot of the hill, when he built the store connected with his dwelling house, which he occupied till his death.

In 1833 Capt. J. F. Sanderson built the Tavern and store in the village. The store was filled by a Mr. Brainard from Washington; but did not remain any length of time. He carried his goods back to Washington. It was next filled by Cleon G. and Ebenezer B. Towne, they did business one year. Cleon left the store and Wm. H. Ireland became partner with Eben. After about another year Eben left and George W. Ireland took his place in trade.

They finally left, went back to Boston their native place, and Gilman Scripture with Warren Walker commenced trade in the Ireland store. In about a year Mr. Walker left, and Scripture took John M. Whiton, Jr. as a partner.



Mr. Walker purchased a building, that was built and occupied as a shop, and constructed it into a store and took for a partner William Murphy from Paper Mill village, their race was a short one, they remained but a few months. The store has not since been filled with goods, and is about to be made into a dwelling house.

Shortly after Mr. Eaton went into his new store, he took Jonathan Greene as a partner in trade; after a few years Mr. Greene left and Mr. Eaton continued business till his death in 1845.

After Mr. Eaton's death, his stock of goods were purchased by John M. Whiton, Jr. and George C. Duncan in one year they were sold at auction. The store was sold and Gilman Scripture became the owner, and business, is carried on under the firm of Scripture, Whiton and Curtice. When Scripture and Whiton left the Ireland store it was unoccupied for some years, when John Towne fitted it and traded about a year, then took Eben A. Rice a partner. Mr. Rice afterwards become connected with the South Stoddard Glass Company, bought Towne's share of the goods, and moved them to the south part of the town. A store was built by the company in 1852.

The Ireland store was purchased by C. A. Blodgett, who still occupies it.

A store was built at the south part of the town about 1843 and filled with goods by James O. Reed from Townsend. He remained there four or five years, then moved his goods to New Ipswich. The store was made into a dwelling house.

## TAVERNS.

Abner Knowlton's dwelling house was long used as a house of entertainment. It was built by Nath'l Emerson, Esq. and used for that purpose by him.

After he left town, it was occupied by many different people, most of them kept a public house.

Aaron Matson, Esq. bought the farm, and Frances his son kept a tavern when he died in 1834. It was used by Esq. Matson for the same purpose a short after.

The old Towne's Tavern was built by Josiah Shapley many years ago. Esq. Gardner Towne became the owner of it, and it has ever been in the hands of his family. Isaac Duncan, Esq. kept it several years after the death of Esq. Towne, and until the business was done at the foot of the hill.

Capt. J. F. Sanderson put up the large Tavern house in the village, in 1833 and partially finished it. I. Duncan purchased it, finished and kept it as a house of entertainment. It is now owned by Loyal Dodge, and occupied by David T. Petts. The old Tavern house, barns and out buildings have been taken down, the last seasons (1852 and 3) and new ones put in their places; all in a superior and thorough style by C. B. Towne of Boston.

A Tavern was built at the South part of the town by John Robb about the time the Forest road was opened the owners and occupants since that time, have been numerous. It is now owned by Luman Weeks and Frederick A. Gilson and kept by Mr. Gilson. It is a noted place, and is known by the name of the Box. The name being so singular; the enquiry is often made. What was the origin of so

strange a name? There are several causes given as to its origin; but which is the true one, is uncertain; but the person, who had the honor of giving it its name, froze to death one night going home from "the Box." Otis Barden built the house where Luther Abbott lives, intending it for the "travelers' home," but he left town soon after, and it has never been used as such since.

## POST OFFICES.

The first post office in town, was established in 1822, and Isaac Duncan was appointed post master.

The mail was carried by Peter Jacobs a resident of Marlow. The mail was carried in a one-horse sleigh. The carrier provided himself with a large tin horn, and would blow several blasts upon it, before arriving at the offices.

Previous to this, any person, receiving or depositing letters was under the necessity of going to Keene or Jaffrey and any one wishing to take a stage, must go to one of the above named places.

A post office had been established in Washington, and a stage passed through that town that accommodated the people in the north part of the town.

Those who have been appointed post masters are Isaac Duncan, Wm. H. Ireland, Ashley Jones, Isaac Duncan (a second term) John M. Whiton, Jr. the present incumbent.

Since the Forest road was opened for travel a line of stages, has run over it constantly, from Charlestown through this town to Boston three times a week and back. Four, and sometimes six horses, have been used, with full freight. The

business has diminished, in some measure since the opening of the Cheshire Rail Road.

As soon as the Keene and Concord road was built a post office was located at the south part of the town known as the South Stoddard Post Office.

Postmasters have been Nathan Bailey, James Wilson, Wm. L. Lewis and Manley W. McClure.

A two horse coach has run over this road from Concord to Keene three times a week.

#### MILLS.

Many of the luxuries of life are derived from the grist mill. It is from that, we obtain our "daily bread."

Stoddard was never much celebrated for the elegance of the mills. The first grist mill was built by Silas Wright, afterwards known as Major Wright, in what is called Mill Village. It has undergone many repairs and been several times rebuilt and owned by many different individuals; and is still the only one in town. It is owned by Israel F. Towne.

A mill was built, and did considerable business among neighbors, by John Henry, at the outlet of the pond, called Henry's pond near the place where Luther Abbott's factory stands. It was in use about 1790. A small grist mill stood on the stream that empties into Factory pond, south of Nathan Nye's residence, about the year 1800 owned by Israel Abbott. It was afterwards rebuilt by Reuben Barrett, Jr. and did grinding for the neighbors.

Capt. Samuel Robb, built a grist and sawmill, near the residence of his son James; and carried on business and did grinding for many years, but it

was not noted for much elegance and good order.

A mill long known as Chandler's mill, was built by Daniel Foster, and did considerable business many years ago. A sawmill still stands on the spot.

It has changed owners many times, and is about to be rebuilt, and is intended to do a good business yet. It is owned by Cummings Moor.

There are six saw mills in operation in town, at present, owned by John and Ephraim Stevens, Edward Reed, Israel F. Towne, Samuel Robb. Moor, Robb and his son, have built in the last season (1853) a saw mill and pail factory, between Island pond, and Samuel Robb's mill, where they intend doing a good business.

#### BUILDINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BURNT.

1. The first on the catalogue, since the commencement of the present century, was a building that once was a dwelling house, although not occupied as such; standing between Charles Worcester's house and the top of the hill. It took fire by drying flax by the fire place.

2. A dwelling house owned by Esq. G. Towne, standing 30 or 40 rods south of the old burying ground and was occupied by Mr. Samuel Dow.

3. A small dwelling house owned and occupied by Josiah Cram, being near the south line of the town, near the Jonas Wilson place.

4. An out house, and carriage house, of Esq. Matson was burnt in the day time. It took fire from an arch where they had been boiling sap.

5. Ebenezer Tarbox's house, barns, and all his out buildings, with his fences, were burnt in the day

time during a severe drouth, and high wind, Sept. 1829.

6. The dwelling house, shop and all the out buildings of Isaiah Gould were burnt in the night, January 1839.

7. Luther Wilson's dwelling with all its contents was burnt in the day-time 1841. The origin of the fire is unknown.

8. A barn belonging to Edward Carrol was burnt by lightning.

9. A woolen factory, built by Otis Barden, standing where Luther Abbott's factory is built, was burnt supposed by an incendiary.

10. A large two story house, was accidentally set on fire in the evening with a candle; owned and occupied by Marcus Richardson, 1842.

11. The Glass factory, owned by Scripture Whiton and Curtice was burnt in 1847.

12. Two dwelling houses, wood and carriage house, owned by Isaiah Reed, Esq. and his son were burnt 1848.

13. Two school houses in district No. 4, one in 1802, the other in 1810 or about that time.

14. A school house in district No. 3, near Col. Wilson's, 1839.

15. An old school house in the middle of the town owned by John Towne, 1848, supposed to be set on fire.

16. The Blacksmith shop at the south part of the town, formerly owned by Luther Wilson, 1845.

#### PONDS.

Stoddard is somewhat celebrated for the number

of ponds it contains; formerly there were fourteen, that bore the name of ponds, several of them have been drained and have grown up with grass and weeds, that they scarce deserve the name.

The largest is the one lying between this town and Nelson, and is known as the Factory pond, from the fact, of a cotton factory standing at the outlet of it. This pond is more than a mile from east to west, and three-fourths of a mile from north to south, more than one-half of it lies in Nelson. Forty or fifty rods, from the eastern shore, is an Island of between two and three acres. Its bottom is sandy and its shores pleasant. It is stored with trout of a large size. Some have been taken, weighing five and six pounds. They are not easily caught. They never could be persuaded to bite a hook. They usually approach near the shore in the month of October (the spawning season) when they have sometimes been killed with muskets. West of the island, water is found to be 110 feet deep. The pond is fed by several small streams running into it, from all directions.

Center pond, being three-fourths of a mile in a south westerly direction from the middle of the town. From its location, probably it received its name. It is of a circular form, of considerable magnitude and is surrounded by high hills. Formerly considerable quantities of Pickerel, Perch, and and other fish, have been caught there; but in late years, few have been taken.

Long pond extends from Mill village into Washington, and is the largest collection of water in town, but it is known by different names as Stacy's pond,

Mud pond, &c. It is in some places merely a river of two or three rods in width, to a half a mile.

The bottom is muddy, and its shores mostly lined with bushes. Its waters are stored with a variety of fish, and in great abundance. Fishermen from the neighboring towns, and even from 40 miles distant, resort there on a fishing excursion, and often carry off more than a hundred pounds of Pickerel, Perch, Horn pouts, &c.

Island pond lying half a mile below Mill village is a large collection of water. It contains nine islands. This also has fish of various kinds and it is sought by many people to obtain them.

The water in the above named ponds, run a south easterly direction, nearly to the south village, when they unite with a stream, having its head in Nelson then running a north east course, and form a branch of the Contoocook river, and empty into the Merri-mac.

Trout pond is situated in the north east part of of the town. It takes its name from the kind of fish, that are found in it. It is not large.

Rye pond is at the south east corner of the town.

It derived its name, from the waving of the long grass, that springs up out of its water. In it stands the land mark that bounds Stoddard on that corner of it. It is not noted for any thing in particular.

It is mostly grown up with weeds, it has been admired for the abundance of white lillies it contained.

Reed's pond, located near where Joshua Reed once resided, and still bears his name. It has been drained and is mostly grown up. It formerly pro-



duced lillies in abundance.

Bog pond is near the residence of E. Fox, Esq.

It has been drained, and is covered with a poor kind of grass, and is mowed in dry seasons.

Henry's pond derived its name from the person living near it, is not an extensive body of water and is not memorable for anything. Mills have been erected at the outlet, but the water privilege is not great.

Taylor's pond lying at the south west part of the town is a body of water of considerable extent and derived its name from Esq. Taylor living near, and owning the land around it.

All waters in the westerly part of the town empty into a branch of the Ashuelot river, and this river into the Connecticut at Hinsdale.

The streams on the east part of the town empty into the Contoocook and on to the Merrimac river.

The height of land between these two rivers, passes nearly through the center of the town, north and south.

The old Towne house now owned by Gardner, Jr. stands so completely on the ridge, that water, running from the roof on the east side, goes into the Merrimac river; that on the west side, passes on, and goes into the Connecticut.

The dam across the stream at Mill village, throws the water back six miles, before coming to falls.

New Hampshire has long been called the "Switzerland of America." Stoddard may with as much propriety be called the Switzerland of New Hampshire. For no town has so high hills, so deep valleys, so ragged precipices, or so huge rocks.

The hills are mostly known, by the name of the owner or some person living near, for instance the Dakin hill, the Morrison hill, the Shedd hill, the Blood hill, &c. But no one is so high and so much celebrated as the Pitcher hill. This is on the high range between the Connecticut and Merrimac rivers and is the highest land in the county except the Monadnock.

A monument of rough stones, was built on the pinnacle of this hill by Gilman Joslin, of Boston and his brother Edward, of Keene. By some accident it was thrown down. It was rebuilt by Gilman Joslin and Isaiah Gould in 1848. It consists of such stones as could be rolled together, and is in the form of a pyramid, the stones being square. It was built "without the sound of the hammer or any other tool being heard." Although it is but nine feet high, it is seen at a distance of several miles.

Stoddard has ever been a healthy town. No disorder has prevailed to any great degree. The number of deaths for the last fifty years, have been about twelve each year, on an average, the greatest number in any one year was in 1816, there were twenty-eight deaths that year, in 1824 there were twenty-three, and twenty-four in 1853. The smallest number in any year, was about 1830, the precise year is not known, four persons only died that year.

In the spring of 1840, John Stevens and his wife died of the Small Pox. What has ever been considered a mystery, is, by what means they took it; and what is still more mysterious, that no other person had it, although many were exposed. These circumstances were so unaccountable, that many

were unwilling to believe the disorder to be Small Pox; but Physicians, and others who had been extensively acquainted with that disease pronounced it to be Small Pox, of the most malignant character.

One person only, has ever lived to be one hundred years old. That person was Antipas Dodge, who lived at the north east part of the town. He was married at the age of ninety years. The ceremony was performed in the highway, in order to avoid the liability (as he said) of paying some debts that were standing against his wife. When he was ninety-five, he worked his highway tax on the road, and was allowed man's wages at the age of one hundred and three years, he moved to Goffstown where he died in 1835, aged 107.

The oldest person ever died in town, was in the past year (1853) at the age of 97. Those who have lived to 90 yrs. and over, are:

Mrs. Alexander Scott.....	Died.....	Aged 93
Isaac Thompson.....	Died, 1823.....	91
Enos Goodale.....	1836.....	91
Peter Wright.....	1843.....	91
Mrs. John Greene.....	1848.....	93
Jacob Copeland, Esq.....	1837.....	91
Mrs. David Scott.....	1848.....	92
Mrs. James Barden.....		95
Mrs. Ephraim Adams.....	1844.....	90
Mrs. Daniel Locke.....	1814.....	93
Jonathan Thompson, died in Alstead	1845.....	94
Mrs. Samuel Dow.....	1853.....	97
Mrs. Benjamin Davis.....	1853.....	95

There are eleven persons now living in town over 80 years of age viz.: Danforth Taylor, Esq. 84. Mrs.

Taylor 84, Willard Corey 82, Mrs. Willard Mansfield 84, Mrs. John Taggart 82, Mrs. Richard Richardson 88, Mrs. Ziba Richardson 85, Mrs. James Wilson 82, Mr. Samuel Nickols 81, (since died) Mr. Elijah Dodge 85, Mrs. Jonathan Jefts 87 (since died.)

CASUAL OR ACCIDENTAL DEATHS,  
WITHIN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

John Wright, son of Stephen Wright, a lad of 16 years of age, was killed while at work in the mill yard, in Mill Village, by rags rolling over him about the year 1805.

Grace Towne, daughter of Israel Towne was instantly killed, by the falling of a stub in the pasture. She with her brothers were after a bird's nest that was supposed to be in it in 1806 or 7.

Jesse Barden was drowned while bathing in the pond below the mill, at Mill Village 1812, aged 17.

A daughter of Danforth Taylor, Jr. was scalded by throwing over a tub of hot water, she died the next day, March 1816.

Jonas Wilson was thrown from his horse, and broke his neck. His sons, with the assistance of other boys, obtained a wagon and carried him to his residence about a mile before they discovered he was dead, in 1821, aged 42.

Isaac Barrett an aged man, was flung from his horse, his foot held in the stirrup, his horse run with him in this condition, and was killed in 1822.

In 1823 Joel Flint was handling some boards, in which were nails. He accidentally pricked the inside of his thumb with the point of a nail. It was soon painful, began to swell and inflame, which

caused his death in three days.

Hannah Booth, a maiden lady living at the east part of the town, fell backwards down the cellar stairs and was killed in 1824, aged 55.

Same year Micajah Mears was taking care of Cyrus Flint, a raving maniac. As he was sitting by the fire, Flint seized the fire shovel, and struck him across the forehead, fracturing the skull, he died in three or four days, the same year.

A child of Luke Holmes was burnt to death by its clothes taking fire and died in a few hours, also in 1824, Nathaniel Blodgett was dressing a calf. In splitting the brisket, he stuck his knife into his thigh, cut the main artery, which caused his death in a few days.

Willard Spaulding went fishing alone in a canoe, he fell overboard and was drowned.

Aaron Fairbanks had been fishing, he did not return as was expected, his family was not alarmed about him, as he was in the habit of working from home, much of the time. After becoming satisfied that he was lost, diligent search was made and he was found in a pasture after having been exposed to the sun and heat, several days.

Capt. Samuel Robb, had been to a town-meeting.

In going home, he wandered from the road, got lost among the bushes, where he was found dead, the next day in 1833, aged 73.

James Wilson, 2nd, son of Capt. Joel Wilson, was at work in the woods, when a limb fell from a tree, and struck him on his head, he died in a few days, aged 24.

Mrs. Messenger, wife of Marshal Messenger, aged

29, and a domestic by the name of Mary Carter, were instantly killed by lightning, 1835.

Asaph Reed was frozen to death going home from the village in South Stoddard, aged 49.

Joseph Butler was instantly killed while blasting rocks, aged about 25.

July 1848 Hervey Dunclee was thrown from a load of hay, by a sudden start of the oxen. The cart wheel passed over his body, which caused his death in four days, aged 23.

July 1850 Albert Joslin, a promising and enterprising young man, was drowned in Keene while bathing, aged 22.

March 1853 Henry Whitman was digging sand in the employment of the Granite Glass Company. He incautiously dug under a bank when it suddenly caved in upon him crushing him under its weight and killing him instantly, aged 17.

Peter Aneas (an Irishman) was drowned while bathing in Stacy's pond August 1853, aged about 40.

Others have died suddenly without any known cause or disorder. Among them are Lemuel Farnsworth, Samuel Messenger, Major Nath'l Friend, Mrs. Simeon Gould, Mrs. Willard Corey, Samuel Emerson and probably others.

The first person that was known, to have died in town, was frozen to death. He was a hunter by the name of Abbott. He had a line of traps from Center pond extending down the stream towards Keene.

He went to his traps, one extremely cold day, but did not return as was expected, search was made and he was found on the hill north of Nathan Nye's orchard. It appeared by his tracks, that he came

up the pond on snow shoes and began to falter before leaving it, by his tracts being short and irregular and overcome by hunger, cold and fatigue, he expired in the snow.

There have been, in the last fifty years, nine cases of suicide whose ages are from 17 to 73 years.

Some of them were the most wealthy, and useful citizens, and all with one exception in the prime of life, and to appearance in the enjoyment of health and prosperity.

## CEMETERIES.

The first place in town, used for a place for the burial of the dead; was north of the Brick church probably on the south east corner of Capt. Joel Wilson's land. This spot was soon relinquished; and at present no appearance of graves, are to be seen, and it is a question with many, whether such a thing ever existed. Another place was selected on the hill 40 or 50 rods south of Gardner Towne's buildings, where some gravestones are still to be found. They are of the rudest kind, such as were found among the ledges without any workmanship, but the hand of nature, except letters cut with such tools as were then obtained. One stone has the letters A. D. another S. D. it is supposed they stood at the graves of Asa and Sally Dutton.

When a place for the middle of the town was selected and the meeting house located, a number of acres were reserved for a common and a burying ground. This was the principle, and for many years, the only place of interment in town. The oldest gravestones in this yard bears the date of

January 1, 1792, where a child of Joshua Reed was buried. Whether it was the first occupant is uncertain. It is supposed that some children of Benjamin Davis were buried there before, and perhaps others.

But convenience required, that other places should be provided. Consequently a small piece of ground was procured of Mr. Jefts in the north-west part of the town, where those who have died in that part of the town have found a "resting place." In the west part of the town, (Leominster corner) a piece of ground was purchased of Mr. Parmenter, and fenced by the voluntary labor of the neighbors, where the remains of many of the citizens of the neighborhood, are deposited, with suitable monuments to designate the spot.

In the south part of the town, is another yard or burial place, for the use of the neighbors and vicinity.

It was a gratuity of Capt. Samuel Robb. It is a pleasant and feasible spot and is the most suitable for that purpose of any in town.

Still there is another in the middle of the town, on land of Sterns Foster. This is owned by individuals and is laid out in lots, and each lot numbered.

A small piece of ground is enclosed on land of John Stevens, used for a family burying place, principally. Its first occupants, were John Stevens (Seignor) and his wife, who died of Small Pox in 1840. Their children have enclosed it with a substantial stone wall and have erected at their expense, an elegant marble monument over the remains of their deceased parents.

The several cemeteries in town are enclosed with a stone wall, and in most instances, the mouldering



remains of friends and relatives are designated by the stone that marks the spot.

## MAINTAINANCE OF THE POOR.

Laws have always existed, which require, that poor persons, who have not the means to support themselves, should be maintained at the expense of the town where they should have a settlement.

The most ancient law to define the settlement of a poor person, was the "warning out" law. Any persons coming into any town, had a settlement in that town unless in the course of a year they were warned out. This was law not only in this state, but in most of the New England states.

For this purpose when a person or family came into a town, the selectmen would issue their warrant to a constable under their hand and seal, ordering him to warn them out of town. The precept was served in the usual way, and ordering him or them, to depart immediately. Each member of the family, must be personally named. The town would not be liable for their support, should they become poor, when this was legally done, although they might remain in town, as long as they chose. Accordingly many who proved to be the most wealthy and valuable citizens, received the summons to immediately depart. This law was repealed in 1796.

The method that this, and most other towns, took to maintain their poor, was to "vendue them," and often men, who had not the means to support their own families, would take some of the town's poor, so that the amount received, would help them to provision to support their own families, and those

who were unfortunately poor, were handed over to the tender mercies of the man who would keep them the cheapest. This for many years was the cause of much deliberation, and sometimes angry debate in town-meeting. It was contended that the poor were not properly taken care of, they were not always provided with suitable "meats and drinks," and were otherwise neglected and abused.

It was afterwards required that the person, "bidding them off" should receive the approbation of the town, before taking them into their care. This method did not prove to be very satisfactory; for there were but few men in town, who were not considered "suitable" on a town-meeting day; and the poor often went into the hands of persons, no ways suitable to take charge of them. Sometimes they would be 'bid off' by some responsible person, and then disposed of to some more unworthy neighbor. In 1829 the town voted to vendue the poor, all who were on the town, and all who should come on. The person bidding them off, should receive the approbation of the town and run the whole risk, except the funeral charges (should any die) and the doctor's bill. They were bid off by Isaac Fisher for 224 dollars. It was customary for several years, from that time, to vendue the "doctoring of the town's poor." It was bid off, by one of the physicians and cost from ten to fifteen dollars. This course was pursued most of the time, till the town purchased their farm in 1848.

In 1830 the poor was bid off by Reuel Dodge on the same conditions as the previous year for 223 dollars. 1831 bid off by Wm. Howard for 266

dollars. 1832 sold to John Robb for 269 dollars, &c.

In 1840 the town's poor were sold for three years, all that were on the town, and all that should come on, and clear the town of every expense. They were bid off by Thomas Spaulding at 400 dollars a year. They were afterwards taken by Loyal Dodge who fulfilled Mr. Spaulding's contract. In 1843 the town hired John Stevens and his wife, together with his farm, stock and tools. 1844 Harrison Chase took the paupers to clear the town of every expense for 350 dollars. Mr. Chase died before the close of the year, but his wife kept them the time out. In 1846 and 7 they were let to Dexter Fletcher for 350 dollars a year.

No method seemed to give satisfaction. The expediency of purchasing a farm, was often debated in town-meeting and sometimes a majority of the voters, were in favor of it. A committee was chosen, for that purpose, at two or more different times, but the project was never executed till 1848. The town by their committee consisting of Chancey Jones, Silas Dinsmore and Willard Spaulding purchased of Frederick Brooks, the farm they now occupy for two thousand dollars. Eight individuals all aged people were moved on to it, the paupers of the town. Two died the first year.

After purchasing provisions of every discription, and refitting the house, in order to better accommodate the family and hiring much extra labor, the expense of keeping the paupers over and above the income, was 350 dollars, in 1849 whole expense was 315 dollars, 1850 expense 108 dollars, 1851 245 dollars, 1852 there was an income of \$3.27. 1853 whole

cost was 73 dollars.

Since purchasing the farm, between 25 and 30 different persons have received support from it.

Eleven have died whose average age is about 76 years, three were over 70, four over 80 and two over 90 years.

For the last four years John S Wilson has been overseer of the poor, and Elias D. Elliott and Perkins W. Hopkins have charge of the farm, two years each.

#### PROFESSIONAL MEN.

The names of the Clergymen will be found in the ecclesiastical part of this work.

#### PHYSICIANS.

There was a physician in town, very early in its history by the name of Willard Frink, very little is known of him. The first who remained any length of time was Ward Eddy, he came from Dublin in 1782 or 3, and filled some town offices, and died in town at an advanced age, although he went to Vermont and was gone several years.

Asher Loveland came to town from Gilsum in 1790. He was an enterprising man and a skillful physician, he did a large amount of business; but unfortunately was always poor. Died, 1849, aged 80.

Jonas Flint, a physician from St. Johnbury, Vt. although a native of Westmoreland, came to town in 1802, he remained but a few years and went to some town in Vermont.

Nathaniel Worcester came from Jaffrey about 1810, died, 1823, aged 42.

Hervey Fisher was a native of this town, he studied medicine and went into practice in 1818. Died, 1847, aged 55.

Jonathan Knight from Westmoreland, settled in town in 1815. He married and left town, 1817, and went back to Westmoreland, afterwards practiced in Tunbridge, Vt., returned again to town in 1825, left in 1837, and went to Piermont, where he still resides, but has given up practice.

Josiah Fleeman, from Alstead, came to town and was the principal physician for several years. He married the daughter of Wilder Knight, (an only child,) he with Mr. Knight's family left town in 1850 and are now at East Wilton.

Ira F. Prouty from Paper Mill Village (Alstead) in 1850 and remained but two years.

Frederick A. Carpenter, a descendant of Dr. Carpenter of Alstead, was the only practicing physician about two years, his health failed, and his place was supplied by Dr. D. W. Hazeltine formerly of Antrim, the only physician in town. Dr. Carpenter died, April 1854.

#### LAWYERS.

Stoddard was never much celebrated, for the limbs of the law, who have favored the town with their services.

Moody Cutter was the only Pettifogger who remained in town any length of time. His practice consisted chiefly of small cases of litigation in his own town. He came from New Ipswich, as early as 1808 or 10. Died, 1827, aged 44.

John M. Foster was in town a few years, about

1807 or 8, but not finding sufficient employment he soon left.

A young lawyer, by the name of Prescott, came into town from Westford, and was here a short time about 1810 or 12. He went to Greenfield and remained several years.

But a small number of the young men in this town have engaged in the learned professions; and it is a singular fact, that but one has ever received a college education.

Rev. Wm. D. Wilson, D. D. son of Wm. Wilson, Esq, is undoubtedly the most thorough scholar, ever went from town. After having been well fitted for college, he entered the divinity school at Cambridge and after graduating with honor, engaged in the ministry. He spent several years in different places, and then became connected with the Geneva College, N. Y., where he still remains, and is a professor and a useful man.

Rev. Moses Gerould, a very popular and energetic Orthodox clergyman, is a native of this town. He was first settled in Alstead (East Parish) and remained several years. He left and went to Hinsdale a few years, and at present, is settled over a society in Canaan, N. H.

James Loveland, quite a celebrated minister of the Methodist order, is from this place, and is located at Charlestown, Mass. Henry S. Loveland, his brother, is also a Methodist preacher, and is in California.

Wm. W. Wilson is a preacher of the Universalist order and is engaged in the state of Maine.

Frederick A. Cutter is the only person who went

from town and engaged in the practice of medicine.

He studied with Dr. Fisher principally, and went to Canada, where he remains.

John Nichols is a Counsellor at Law, and is established in business in Wisconsin. He is from this town, and the only one, who has received a college education.

#### MECHANICS AND MANUFACTURERS.

Less has been done in this town in mechanical arts or in manufacturing, than most towns, no mechanical business more than the wants of the people require.

A small Woollen factory was built by Otis Barden at the outlet of Henry's pond on the road to Marlow.

He failed in business; the factory was afterwards burnt. It has been rebuilt by Luther Abbott, but has not yet been put in operation.

The largest business ever carried on in town is the manufacturing of Glass Bottles.

In 1842 Joseph Foster came from Keene and built a furnace (of stone principally) in an old house west from Gilson's tavern, and run it a short time, but having no capital, he failed in business. He afterwards built another 80 rods north of the village, but again failed.

Gilman Scripture, John M. Whiton, Jr. and Calvin Curtice built a large factory for making bottles at Mill Village in 1846, and were doing a profitable business. The next winter the factory was burnt.

It was soon rebuilt. They are making annually about 2500 dollars' worth of bottles of various sizes and descriptions.

Another factory was built at the south part of the town for the same purpose in 1850 by Luman Weeks, Almon Woods, Ebenezer A. Rice, Nicholas Hill and Fred A. Gilson, where they carried on business two years when Messrs. Woods & Hill left the company, after another year Mr. Rice sold out, the business is carried on by Messrs. Weeks and Gilson, they are doing a good business, but something less than the other company.

For several years, considerable business has been carried on in Rake making by Jacob Taylor, Jonathan Jefts and Samuel Robb. The Jeft's rakes have been considered the best, there is in use. Messrs. Taylor and Robb, make a very good article. Mr. Jefts and his son who carried on rake making, have died, the business is done by I. Hodgman. The three shops make over one thousand dozen annually.

Hoe handles are manufactured by Benjamin F. Messer & Samuel Robb, more than three thousand dozen are disposed of annually, others have been engaged in the business formerly.

Bobbins were once made by James Boyd, and others at the place where Samuel Robb's shop stands.

This shop has recently been purchased by I. B. Sawtell from Townsend, where he is engaged in making Powder kegs.

S. Robb has built a new shop the last season (1853) and will increase his business.

There are two tanneries in Mill Village owned by Ferdinand O. Cutter and Gardner Towne, Esq. who are doing a profitable business.

A tannery was once in successful operation in the village. The vats were under Wm. F. Loomis'



dwelling house, and the buildings stood where the tavern now stands.

In 1830 the compiler began to manufacture Ox Yokes for the Boston market, and has continued in the business to the present time and has disposed of nearly four thousand yokes, principally to that market. No one thought the business sufficiently lucrative to engage in it till 1850. Since then, several others are engaged in the business and probably in the course of the year 1854 as many as seven thousand yokes will be disposed of at Boston. Those engaged are Nathan Gould, Gardner Towne, Edwin Jenkins, Heman Jenkins, Edwin R. Locke and some others.

Formerly cabinet furniture was made for the people in town, sleighs and wagons were to some extent, towards supplying the demands of the inhabitants; with a sufficient number of blacksmiths and shoemakers, for the wants of the people. At the present time no furniture, neither carriages of any kind are made in town and a great part of the boots and shoes are furnished by the merchants.

#### WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.

At the commencement of the American Revolution, Stoddard was in its infancy, it having been incorporated with town privileges but the year before and contained probably not more than 30 men fit for actual service, yet she furnished her share of men and money to carry on the contest.

We have no means of knowing how many men, belonging to town, were actually engaged in the war, nor who they were, but by what can be gathered

from the town records, and from the recollection of some of the aged inhabitants.

We first learn from the records in 1776 a town-meeting was called to choose two selectmen in the room of Nathaniel Emerson and Isaac Temple who were going into the Continental army. In the record of the proceedings of the said meeting, chose two selectmen in the room of Nathaniel Emerson and Isaac Temple who have gone into the Continental army. In 1777 the town voted to raise 90 pounds as a bounty, to pay three men to serve in the continental army. In 1778 voted 100 pounds to hire a man for the army. Same year voted Mr. Abraham Morrison 30 pound for his son in the army.

Which son, the above vote referred to, is not mentioned, most probable it was Samuel as he was out in a large part of it, then voted that Benjamin Davis, should pay it, and it should go for his turn.

1780 a town-meeting to see what sum of money the town will raise to purchase beef for the army, which the general court requires of us. Voted to raise 180 pounds to purchase beef. In 1781, voted to raise 300 silver dollars for raising three soldiers for three years. At another time a town-meeting to see if the town will provide for the family of Richard Richardson, according to an act of the general court. Mr. Richardson was in the army, and laws required that his family should be provided for at the expense of the town. In 1785 was an article in a warrant for town-meeting to see if the town will allow Samuel Morrison any compensation for the last three years in the army.

From the foregoing extracts, and the best infor-

mation that can be otherwise obtained, we have reason to believe that the following persons served in some part of the Revolution and were at the time citizens of town. Viz: Nathaniel Emerson, Richard Richardson, John Robb, Benjamin Dunn, Samuel Morrison, Samuel Robb (Continental Samashe was called) John Taggart, Isaac Temple, Isaac Kinney, Ephraim Adams, Nathaniel Richardson, Joseph Dodge and John Ober, the three last never returned to town. Mr. Dodge died of the Small Pox at Philadelphia. Mr. Ober was killed by indians.

It is to be regreted, that measures have not been taken to preserve from the shades of oblivion, more of the history and public services, of the men, who were engaged in the war of the Revolution. No individual of them are living in town, and very few are to be found in the country and they very aged.

All that is known of their services, is what has been handed down to succeeding generations by those veterans of the Revolution as they were related at the fireside and in the social circle.

After the close of the war and early in the settlement of the town more than 70 of the soldiers, had a permanent residence in this town, but no one of them are now living and no record of their services are found, nothing but their names are left that posterity and their country may know the deeds of valor they performed.

Soldiers of the Revolution who afterwards lived in town.

David Allen, Joseph Brockway, Samuel Dow,

— Bunton, Ephraim Adams, John Davis,

John Adams, Ebenezer Blake, Nath'l Emerson,

Job Brooks, Baruch Bolster, Nathaniel Evens,  
 Tim'y Baker, Jacob Blodgett, Simeon Fisk,  
 John Brown, Aaron Fairbanks, James Barden,  
 Philip Barden, Harbor Farnsworth, John Barker,  
 Isaac Barrett, Sam'l Farnsworth, Benjamin Dunn,  
 Nath'l Gibson, Sam'l Messenger, Samuel Robb,  
 Simeon Gould, Thomas Nichols, Capt. Sam'l Robb,  
 Sam'l Gerould, Dennis Organ, James Scott,  
 Benj. Howard, John Ober, David Scott,  
 Levi Parker, Oliver Hodgman, Ebenezer Stacy,  
 Nath'n Hardy, Joseph Procter, Asa Stevens,  
 Isaiah Hardy, Jonathan Petts, Benjamin Tarble,  
 Wm. Pitcher, Isaac Thompson, George Holmes,  
 David Jenkins, Jonth'n Thompson, Edw'd Phelps,  
 Nath'l Joslin, Levi Phelps, John Taggart,  
 David Joslin, Samuel Wilson, Joshua Reed, ~~—~~  
 Obod'h Jenkins, Nath'l Richardson, Samuel Wasson,  
 Lem'l Jenkins, Rich. Richardson, Peter Wright,  
 Sam. Morrison, El'nathan Reed, ~~x~~ Ebenezer Wright,

The only record of enlistment or term of service  
 I have been able to obtain, was made with David  
 Joslin and is taken from the history of Leominster,  
 by Hon. David Wilder; and as posterity seems to  
 demand that all documents of that kind, should be  
 preserved; I insert the contract verbatim.

*Leominster, April 10, 1781.*

I, the subscriber, do engage to serve in the  
 Continental army, for three years, unless sooner  
 discharged; for the class, that Capt. Joshua Wood  
 is the head of, provided the class pay me two  
 thousand dollars in paper money, or silver at the  
 exchange before I go and eighteen three-year-old

middling cattle; provided I stay two years and six months, said cattle are to be two years old; and if I stay not one week, said cattle are to be one year old.

*Signed,*

*DAVID JOSLIN.*

Lancaster, April 12, 1781. Then passed muster David Joslin for a Continental soldier, for the term of three years, and for the town of Leominster, and Capt. Joshua Wood's class.

Before me Wm. Dunsmoor, Muster Master.

Mr. Wilder further says, he staid his time out and received the cattle according to the agreement.

At the time, Mr. Joslin enlisted into the Continental army, he was under sixteen years of age, he was quite slender, and so small, that he obtained a full suit of under-clothes, and a pair of high heel shoes; and tradition says, he barely passed muster at that. Before his leaving home a lock of his hair was shorn off, and retained in the family as a memento, should he never return. That lock of hair was as white as the head of any urchin, and is now in the possession of the writer's family.

When he obtained his discharge, he brought a certificate from his commanding officer, certifying that he had been a good soldier. That fact may also be inferred from the following incident. At a certain time an individual, was taken prisoner, who proved to be a British Spy. A sergeant was sent, with a sufficient guard to convey to "head quarters" of which young Joslin was one of them. When they stopped for the night the guard lay upon the floor, and the prisoner was laid between them, and Joslin

was left as a watch, but, alas! the prisoner made his escape, by what means, no one could give any account. But after proper deliberation, it was decided to return. They had lost the prisoner, and a Court Martial was the result. The accusations, were, the sergeant for loosing the prisoner and David Joslin for getting to sleep on his post. The next morning the regiment was paraded to hear the sentence announced. The punishment, that was inflicted upon the sergeant, is not material at this time, but "David Joslin for getting to sleep on his post, is sentenced to receive fifty lashes upon his naked back," then added "but the commanding officer sees fit to forgive him, for his former good conduct."

Mr. Joslin came to this town soon after the close of the war, and was an industrious and useful citizen, he died, April, 1825, aged 60 years.

After the close of the Revolution, taxes were exceeding high, and debts had accumulated to an alarming extent, and much sacrifice of property was made to liquidate them and a general dissatisfaction prevailed throughout the country, especially in the state of Massachusetts.

In 1784 and 5, nearly 4000 actions were entered in the county of Worcester, and so general was the dissatisfaction, that it manifested itself in open rebellion to the laws of the state.

In 1786, a man by the name of Daniel Shays, having a large number of writs against him, assembled an armed mob, to stop the court from holding its session at Springfield. About the same time another body of the disaffected had assembled, to

stop the court at Worcester.

Under these circumstances, the Militia were notified to assemble, and a goodly number volunteered to march against the insurgents; who had assembled to the number of one thousand men.

At Springfield the militia was under the command of Gen. Shepherd, who gave notice to Gen. Shays, if he approached within a certain distance of the court house he would be fired upon. Shays, however paid no regard to the notice, and passed the forbidden bound. Two shots were made, without any intention of harming them. At the third fire, three men were killed upon the spot, and others wounded, the whole then fled without firing a gun, that was the end of Shays' rebellion.

Some of the men who were engaged in this rebellion also one, or more, who were called out under government, to suppress it, settled in this town.

Jason Parmenter, who lived in what is called "Leominster corner," was of the number. He for some cause shot a man, (a neighbor) about the time, and was sentenced to be hung. The day arrived, he took leave of his family, was placed upon his coffin and carried to the gallows, he mounted the platform, the rope was put about his neck, the cap drawn over his face, when a pardon was read, and he returned to his family; and soon came to this town where he lived to a good old age.

It is said another individual, who spent a long life in town, was engaged in the insurrection, and came here in order to escape the penalty of the law.

Those who have known him, and heard him boast of his Republican principles and his attachment to

the laws of his country, would be unwilling to believe he was ever engaged in a rebellion against its authority.

In view of the cost of the American Independence, and the toil and the suffering of the soldiers endured to obtain it, many of them would assemble on the return of its anniversary and while partaking a social "mug of toddy" or a "bowl of punch," would relate some of the adventures of the camp, and, as it were, "fight their battles over again;" and at public celebrations, none would enjoy it, with as much enthusiasm as they. I undertake to say without any hesitation, in no country town, has held so many days of public festivity, in commemoration of America's birthday as Stoddard. Orations, and public addresses, have been delivered; dinners have been provided; sentiments commemorative of the event have been given; and have been responded to, by a discharge of musketry, many of them, posterity, must forever remain ignorant. They were universally performed by a military parade.

Within the recollection of many of the present inhabitants, a large company was paraded on the common, composed entirely of soldiers of the Revolution. No company has been collected on the occasion, whose discipline and tactics were equal to it. Col. Nathaniel Evens, was martial, Capt. John Barker, commanded, Ebenezer Blake was Lieutenant, and Oliver Boutwell, Ensign, Simeon Gould, Martial of the music.

At a much later period, the writer had command of a company of volunteers on an Independent day, among them, were several of the Revolutionary



soldiers.

\*The last celebration, of a military character, was in 1843. In addition to the company of Grenadiers, in this town who appeared in a new and splendid uniform, accompanied with an elegant brass band, was a large company of artillery from Hancock; the Cheshire guards, and a rifle company from Marlow. The Oration was given by Rev. L. J. Fletcher, a Universalist clergyman. The oration and the martial appearance of the troops, was far superior to anything of the kind ever known in town.

In June 1812, a war was declared by the United States against Great Britain. The war was disapproved by many of the citizens of this town, but some of her sons, enlisted in the war service, and served on the Canada frontier, viz: Moses Emerson, Jedediah Butters, Roswell and Samuel W. Loveland, Lewis and Joseph Howard, Thomas Darling and Jonathan Mansfield. S. W. Loveland was wounded in battle and has for many years drawn a pension of six dollars per month.

Early in the autumn of 1814 a large British force entered Penobscot Bay and threatened an attack on the sea-port of New England. A large number of the militia of New Hampshire, either volunteered or were drafted to march to the defence of Portsmouth.

At that time, there were two companies in Stoddard. They were separated by the road leading from Nelson to Washington, and were denominated the East company and the West. In the West company, under the command of Wm. Wilson, a

sufficient number volunteered, viz: Wm. Howard, Job Brooks, Jr., Ralph Dodge, Joseph and Wilder Knight, David Joslin, Jr., Elisha Stevens, Calvin Wilson and Benjamin Jenkins.

The East company was commanded by Capt. Joel Wilson. Not a sufficient number was found to volunteer; the deficiency was supplied by a draft.

Those who went were: Samuel Upton, David Scott, Jr., Moses Robb, Gardner Towne, Joseph Dunn, Jonathan Mansfield, Joseph Brown, Obodiah Goodale and John Kimble. They all returned again to town.

The vicissitudes of war, kept the public mind in a state of excitement, for almost three years; but the welcome news of peace, came in February 1815, which produced an out burst of joy. Party animosity was laid entirely aside, and the citizens a few days after, held a social meeting for mutual congratulation.

In 1815 the town voted to make up the pay to the soldiers who went to Portsmouth, to fifteen dollars a month. A soldier's pay from government being but eight dollars.

The downfall of the Continental Currency during the war of the Revolution, has been a theme of conversation among men of that time; and most of the aged people at this day, have had more, or less traditionary information concerning it, and the disaster that was caused by it; without knowing its history, and the cause of the suffering among the people, occasioned by fluctuation of the continental bills of credit during the Revolutionary war.

A short history, of the transactions, would be new

to most of our readers, and is considered sufficiently interesting to require a place in this work.

No other medium, other than Continental bills for the payment of public obligations, being within the command of Congress for a long time.

The citizens, who most cheerfully furnished service and supplies for carrying on the war; were most severely scourged by its depreciation and downfall.

To destroy the credit of the Continental money, was one of the leading objects of the British government. Impressed with the belief, that Congress possessed no other means of waging active warfare, they supposed that when its credit was destroyed; the war must cease on the part of the Rebels.

Hence the immense flood of counterfeit, continental bills put into circulation, by the British and Tories in every part of the continent where they had footing. Large as was the amount of continental bills authorized by Congress, say about three hundred million of dollars; it has been generally estimated, by those best acquainted with the subject; that the enemy, put into circulation false bills, to at least, three fold that amount. They were given, gratis, to the Tories, in any sum they might choose to carry away. They were scattered broadcast from Canada, over New England. Wherever the British army held a post; and was in communication with those disaffected to the American cause; counterfeit continental bills were spread from that point over the whole surrounding region. It was so difficult for men in the ordinary walks of life, to distinguish between true and false bills; that the

design of the enemy in destroying their credit, finally was successful; but did not result in stopping the war as they had expected.

The first measure of Congress, after adopting the Federal Constitution, was to provide for Revolutionary claims. An act was passed, 1790, for redeeming all genuine Continental bills; by paying, one dollar for every hundred dollars.

The town records show the extravagant prices that were paid in Continental money about that time.

In 1779, the town voted to raise one thousand five hundred pounds (equal to 8333 dollars) to work on the highway; and to pay twelve pounds (40 dollars) per day for a man, and eight pounds (26.67) for a pair of oxen. The like extravagant prices were paid for everything that was purchased. One of our townsmen (Col. Evens) paid one hundred dollars for a quart of new Rum. Several similar purchases might be related.

#### WILD ANIMALS.

When the first settlers came into town, they found the woods inhabited with all the species of wild beasts that were found in New England; that had ranged the forests unmolested for ages.

The Catamount was found here, but not common.

The Moose, the largest species of the deer was found. Wolves, Bears and Deer were very common. The flesh of the Moose, Bear or Deer, furnished the early inhabitants with their winter's stock of meat and many families had no other.

Several wolves would collect together, they then

were called "a pack" they would then make the night hideous by their howling. Hunger would make them ferocious, and would then, attack anything, either man or beast; that came in their way.

Sheep, Cattle and Swine were often destroyed by them. Deer were harmless and inoffensive animals.

They were considered, rather a benefit, than an injury to the country. Laws were enacted to prevent the killing of them at certain seasons of the year. For that purpose the town chose at their annual meeting, an officer called a Deer-reef, whose duty it was to see that the laws were enforced, as to killing them at the unlawful seasons of the year.

To kill a Wolf or Bear was a common occurrence.

So much so, that it appears unnecessary to relate all the adventures that might be collected, from aged people, even at this day. But as settlement advanced the wild animals disappeared; and the largest kinds have long since left the place.

In the early part of the present century, straggling Bears or Wolves, have sometimes made their appearance. In such cases, an alarm was given, and a general hunt ensued.

Early in the spring of the year 1803, some sheep belonging to Simon Greenwood, were killed by Wolves. It was supposed by the tracks, that there were several of them in company. The inhabitants were alarmed, and a large number soon collected; with many from the neighboring towns. A large tract of the wilderness was surrounded, and on coming together at the top of Dr. Eddy's hill, they found they had encircled three Wolves, a Bear and two Foxes. Two of the wolves were killed; the

other and the Bear escaped. The next day, they surrounded another piece of woods, and killed the other wolf; the Bear again escaped. The third day they met again, and the Bear was killed. But the sport came nigh proving fatal, to a young man one of the party. Mr. Locke, carried with him a horse pistol for a weapon. After the hunt was over, he gave the pistol to his son, Enos, a lad of twelve or fourteen years old, without telling him it was loaded.

On the way home another youngster (Samuel Howard) was a little forward of Enos when he pointed the pistol towards his head and said "if you was a Bear, how easily I could kill you," at the same time pulling the trigger, the pistol went off, and a ball passed through Howard's hat and grazing the skin on the top of his head.

When John Wilson was a young man, he went one day to a pasture, his way led through the woods towards Hancock. He had not gone far, before he discovered a Bear and two cubs, across his path. He immediately returned home and with his brothers and a few neighbors, started in pursuit of them.

On arriving at the woods they separated themselves, in order to be more likely to discover them.

They were provided with such weapons as happened to come in their way. Some however had guns. They had not proceeded far before Joel Wilson saw the old Bear, and made chase after her.

He had not gone but a short distance before the Bear turned, raised herself upon her hind legs, in order for an attack. He was provided with no weapon, but an axe, and remembering to have heard it said, that a Bear would strike it from a person's

hand instantly, he looked for a tree that he could climb. When he started towards the tree, the Bear started towards him. All this time he was hallooing to his companions for help. Before he had ascended many feet up the tree, the Bear was at the foot of it. The tree being so small, she could not climb it, but would spring as high as she could, at the same time Wilson would draw his feet up as high as he could to keep them out of her reach. As she would slip down, he would climb a little higher. He was soon released from his perilous situation by the arrival of his companions. After receiving a few charges from the muskets she left the place and was soon out of sight.

Their next object was, to capture the Cubs, they were found at the top of a high tree; where they could not be reached by musket balls, and the only way to get them, was to fall the tree, this was accordingly done and the Cubs caught, "and the captors bore them off in triumph.

In 1818 it was supposed that a pack of Wolves, inhabited the large body of woods lying between Stoddard and Antrim, from depredations that were committed on flocks of sheep, bordering on this forest. Notice was given pretty extensively and men from Stoddard, Washington, Hillsboro, Antrim Hancock and Nelson, to a large number surrounded the wood. After a severe ramble, they returned home, weary, hungry and disappointed; and found no wolves.

A few years after the above an animal, supposed to be a Wolf (judging from the tracks) was started in Lempster and followed through Marlow, collect-

ing the inhabitants on the way and driven into a piece of woods near Franklin Richardson's. Notice was sent to the middle of the town, and a number of the people went to their assistance, the wood was surrounded and the animal killed, which proved to be a Wild Cat, or Siberian Lynx, of a monstrous size. Others of the same species have been killed occasionally, one by Jonathan Jefts, one by Col. Wilson and others, one by Mr. Parmenter, Willard Corey killed one under his barn having been driven there by hunger, and a severe snow storm.

The Beaver was once common here, but now are entirely extinct. Perhaps there is no animal in the country that appeared to possess so much of the human skill as the Beaver. They would select some spot on a stream of water for a residence, and raise a pond by building a dam across it. They would fall trees and cut them of a suitable length, draw them across the stream with their tails, and with mud make it tight, using their tail for a trowel, which is broad and flat.

A Beaver was once seen to work on her dam, by one of our citizens, while two young ones were at play a short distance off. She left her work went and caught, first the one, and then the other and gave them a severe flogging with her tail; she then went back to her work, and her idle children followed her.

The Otter, Fox and Raccoon still inhabit the place, with most kinds of small animals subject to New England.

#### WEATHER, STORMS, ETC.

Stoddard has long been celebrated for cold



weather and deep snows and many anecdotes have been told in regard to the latter.

It was once said, that a traveler was passing through town, he saw a woman digging into a snow drift to a considerable depth, he inquired of her what she was after. She replied, that she was digging to find snow that was seven years old to make soap, it was said to be better."

It is evident that snows have fallen deeper in Stoddard, than any town in the same latitude.

There have been cold days and snow storms, within the limits of these annals, that should find a place in a work like this; but so few are found on record that most of them must be passed over.

Only a few extracts from a journal kept by the author, for the last 30 years, will be noticed.

February 20, 1828, came one of the most severe snow-storms ever known. It commenced snowing in the night and continued through the following day. Snow fell to the depth of two feet, and very much drifted. It extended through New England, it was more tedious in Massachusetts than any other place. It snowed again the 25th, 15 inches of snow fell at this time, another succeeded in a few days, till it was almost impossible to break through it. 4 feet of snow was upon the ground by these storms. 1834, snow fell early in the month of December to the depth of 18 inches, other snows came soon after, till the ground was covered 4 feet deep, which rendered business abroad, out of the question. Many people had to draw their fire-wood on a hand sled as but few had their stock of wood at the door. There were no thaws, nor much

additional snow after the first of January. The snow went off early and suddenly. The first of April the snow was gone, and the ground dry.

From the 10th to the middle of the month, the weather was like summer. Cattle retreated to the shade, and people were riding under their umbrellas to screen them from the scorching rays of the sun.

Notwithstanding, the spring was backward, the month of May was cold and stormy, the 18th was a driving snow storm. Sheep that were out to pasture, were completely covered up, as they were sheltered by the fences.

1839, the winter was a singular one. The weather much of it was extremely cold, but not snow enough to make good sleighing at any time during the winter.

1841, Nothing remarkable in the winter, but the spring deserves notice. From the 9th of April to the 20th of May was a continuation of cold weather and snow storms and blows. Sledding and sleighing, during the whole time, cross roads are full of snow that bears teams. 21st of May, trees look like January; not a bud had started. From this time to the end of the month, was fine weather.

1843, Nothing worthy of notice till March. The month came in mild, but a tremendous snow storm the 13th, the 14th was town-meeting. But few horses, could be got through the snow to the middle of the town. From this time to the end of the month the snow storms and blows continued. First and second days were cold and stormy, 7th snow more than 4 feet deep and sleighing good, stone walls, in many places, are "under cover"

grows warm, snow is mostly carried off by the heat of the sun.

1844, Snow fell to the depth of three feet, the storms were light and snow but little drifted.

April was a warm and mild month; the snow went off early in the month, vegetation immediately started, most of the plowing and sowing was done in this month. Moosebush and Sugarplumb in blossom the 3rd of May.

1846, A fine winter, scarcely two feet of snow, and most excellent sleighing, Spring forward, April a warm month ground dry and warm. Sugarplumb and Moosbush in blossom May 1st.

1849, A north-east snow storm, was not known this winter, snow gone, and travelling good the 8th of April, but became cold and a backward spring.

1850, Snow came early and deep but little fell after the first of January. April, a cold stormy month, fifteenth, roads were impassible. Sleighs were used constantly from 3rd of December to 20th of April, Stage on runners the 10. 139 days of sleighing.

May a wet and cold month, rain almost every day from the 10th to end of the month. Pieces of ground designed for planting corn, was not ploughed till June. Some farmers did not plough a furrow till Election.

1851, Four or five inches of snow fell the 10th of November. Sleighs and sleds were used, some additional snows between this and the 25th which makes sleighing good. It continued (but being injured by thaws) till the 13th of April when about two feet of snow fell. Sleighs were used from 10th of November till 19th of April which make 101 days

of sleighing.

Cattle and sheep were confined at the barn and had to depend for their whole living there, for full six months, the longest winter ever known.

In addition to the foregoing, there happened on the 8th of October 1804, a snow storm of remarkable severity. It covered the ground to the depth of nearly a foot. A large part of the potatoes, apples and corn, were buried under the snow. In cold places that were secluded from the sun, the drifts lay till the next spring.

January 19, 1810, is memorable for a severe cold day rendered almost intolerable by a driving wind. It is still remembered by aged people as the "Cold Friday," several people perished with the severity of the cold.

In the summer of 1826, was a great drouth and a surprising multitude of Grasshoppers. It has long been referred to as the Grasshopper year. The crop of hay and grain was reduced nearly one-half, by these destructive insects, and the dry weather.

The autumn yielded an abundance of grass; the cold weather was late in coming and the ensuing spring was quite early; which rendered the short crop of fodder, a comfortable supply.

Cattle, and some Colts, were driven from this town to Vermont to be wintered; which proved to be an unprofitable undertaking for the owners; for some of them were too poor to come back in the spring.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

In 1776 at a town-meeting, the question arose, whether it was the opinion of the town that Isaac

Kinney had perjured himself by being sworn into the office of Selectman and afterwards refused to serve. The town voted in the affirmative.

1777, was the first tax that was assessed upon the inhabitants, and they voted not to pay it.

Whether it was paid or not, is not known. The first tax, found on record was in 1784, the first collector was chosen in 1781.

1778, a town-meeting was held to choose a delegate to attend a convention that was to be held at Peterboro and "to see how long the town would authorize him to stay." Chose Capt. Towne to attend the convention at Peterboro and left it with the selectmen how long he should stay. A caution to modern legislators.

1780, a town-meeting to attend the drawing of one good and lawful man out of the Jury box, to serve at the Court of Common Pleas. Drew Caleb Hunt out of the box, &c.

Grand jury-men, were chosen by the town and were to serve one year. Justices of the peace were chosen by the town till 1792.

For many years this town, was classed with Camden (now Washington) Packersfield (Nelson) and Gilsum, for the choice of a Representative to the Legislative Assembly. Afterwards Stoddard and Washington sent Jacob Copeland who was often chosen to the office. In 1794 Stoddard sent a representative independent of Washington, and Nath'l Emerson was honored with the appointment.

Early in the history of the town, little was known of the political parties, which have characterized the people at later periods.

In 1786, John Langdon had 32 votes for governor (President as he was called) all there were cast.

1795, John Taylor Gilman received all the votes, 47.

1796, Electors of President had 25 votes each.

The first we find two candidates for the same office was in 1803. John Langdon (Republican) had 21 votes for governor when John T. Gilman (Federalist) had 77.

1802, at the annual meeting, a town clerk and a board of selectmen were chosen, at an adjourned meeting "Voted to reconsider the vote of the former meeting, so far as town officers were concerned and a town clerk and an entirely different board of selectmen were chosen. Whether such proceedings had the stamp of legality, is not our present business to inquire.

1817, early in the spring of the year, Pigeons were seen flying in vast multitudes about in town. They collected in the low-land lying in the south-east part of the town, there they built their nests and remained during the season of incubation. They would be seen flying (mostly in the morning) towards the west, in flocks, that would extend for miles, and return in the latter part of the day. When their young were sufficiently grown, they all moved to "the far west" or "to parts unknown." This is the only time that they have been known "to hatch and rear their young" in this part of the country. Stoddard and Croyden in Sullivan county the only places they were known to have assembled at that time.

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE early settlers of this town, were like most of the first inhabitants of New England; they respected and revered the ordinances of Religion, and spared no effort to maintain it. Their first acts, were to take measures to provide for the preaching of the Gospel. At almost, if not every town-meeting among the business, was an article to raise money to hire preaching and they were generally met by raising a generous sum, in fact, it appeared they thought on a faithful maintenance of a preached gospel, depended all their prosperity.

At their first annual town-meeting thirty pounds were raised to hire preaching; while at the same time, an article to raise money for schooling was dismissed.

In 1770, the town voted to raise a sum of money to hire preaching. At a subsequent meeting, a vote was passed, "to reconsider that vote; and the committee was instructed not to hire any more preaching than could be helped with decency", owing probably, to the scarcity of money and the calamities of the war, they were engaged in.

The first minister we hear of, was a Mr. Hutchinson who preached in town in 1778. Some time after Mr. Houston preached here. We hear nothing who the ministers were again till 1787, when Mr. Enoch Pond officiated in town and the people gave him a call to settle with them in the ministry. The conditions of his settlement were, to give him seventy-five pounds salary annually, and a hundred pounds as a

settlement. The two above sums were to be paid in the following articles, viz.: "Rye at four shillings a bushel, corn at three shillings; fresh pork at four pence per pound, grass fed beef at twenty shillings a hundred, butter at eight pence per pound, flax at eight pence, and other produce of the farm, in like proportions. Mr. Pond did not see fit to accept the proposal, and was not settled.

In this year (1787) the Congregational church was organized, and consisted of seven members, viz.: Ephraim Adams and his wife, Timothy Thompson and his wife, Dr. Ward Eddy and wife, and Mr. Eleazar Blake. Mr. Adams and Dr. Eddy were chosen deacons. Deacon Adams held the office till his death in 1823. Dr. Eddy resigned his charge, and moved to Vermont, but came back and died at an advanced age.

1791, "voted to settle the Rev. Solomon Adams as our minister." A committee was chosen to confer with Mr. Adams, they agreed upon terms of settlement, and made report to the town, the report was accepted; that is the last we hear of it, but he was not settled.

In 1793, Rev. Abisha Colton was ordained. The town voted to give him the interest of one hundred and fifty pounds for the first year, by his giving the town a title to the ministerial land, and the town to sell the land and purchase a parsonage, to the value of one hundred and fifty pounds, to be occupied by Mr. Colton, or any other minister the town may settle. Also voted to give Mr. Colton seventy-five pounds for the first year, as a salary, and to increase it annually, by twenty shillings, till it amounts to



eighty pounds; then to stop and increase no more.

In reply to the foregoing proceedings, Mr. Colton gave the following answer.

*To the Congregational Church and people of God in Stoddard of New Hampshire.*

*Gentlemen:*

I have taken into consideration, the invitation, which you give me to settle with you, in the gospel ministry and have sought to Heaven for direction in this weighty affair; have consulted some of the ministers in the neighboring churches, together, with some of my friends and acquaintances, and have weighed the unhappiness of your continuing, to live as you have done; like sheep scattered over the mountains, without a shepherd. And not withstanding, the many discouragements, that present themselves, that tends to prevent my compliance with your request. Having deliberated them maturely in my own mind, my answer is in the affirmative.

Further, as you have voted me a parsonage to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds, to be improved by me, during my ministry among you.

I propose to accept the annual interest of the parsonage, money in lieu of the parsonage. And although I give my answer to tarry with you, upon this plan, that if settled among you, I will resign my ministerial charge of you whenever the society shall request it, or whenever I shall choose to resign it.

Yet shall expect this privilege, that as I am settled in a regular way; so may I be dismissed in a regular way, viz.: by a mutual council. I do also request, this favor of the town, that as I live at a consider-

able distance from my friends and relatives; that they would allow me a sabbath or two annually, to visit them, without supplying the desk.

Mr. Colton was dismissed, at his own request, in July, 1793 and died in Vermont, 1823.

On the town book, in a warrant for a meeting, we find the following record, in regard to the dismissal of Mr. Colton. "To see if ye town will concur in ye vote of ye church in granting ye request of ye Rev. Abisha Colton in regard to his asking a dismissal from ye pastoral care of ye Congregational church and congregation in Stoddard as a Watchman".

*Monday, 10th day of August 1795.*

The action of the town, on the foregoing article, was as follows:

Ye town voted to dismiss ye Rev. Abisha Colton agreeable to his request; ye town voted to send for ye council to come on Wednesday ye ninth day of September next, to dismiss ye Rev. Abisha Colton in ye town voted to dismiss ye meeting.

We hear nothing who the ministers were, after Abisha Colton was dismissed, till 1798 when Rev. Elijah Dunbar, preached in town. Rev. Stephen Williams was in town a short time in 1800; and in December of the same year Rev. Robinson Smiley came here as a candidate for the ministry. Each of the above named clergymen, had a call from the people, to settle among them in the gospel ministry; and each gave a negative answer.

In 1802, Rev. Isaac Robinson from Hudson, N. H. came into town and was engaged to preach one year.

At a town-meeting held August 30, 1802, Voted to give Rev. Isaac Robinson a call to settle in the gospel ministry in this town. Also voted to give Mr. Robinson five hundred dollars as a settlement, to be paid, one-third annually; and two hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty seven cents (80 pounds) as a salary to be paid annually, so long as he remains our minister.

Upon the foregoing proceedings of the town, Mr. Robinson made the following reply.

*Brethren of the Church and Gentlemen of the Congregation:*

You will permit me to express my gratitude to you, for the respect which you have shown me by inviting me to be your pastor; and for the attention with which you have bestowed upon my instructions since I have labored among you; and if any of you have received any spiritual good from my ministry I entreat you to ascribe all the glory to God, to whom alone it belongs. Divisions, you are fully sensible have prevailed among you, heretofore, and have been productive of very unhappy consequences.

I hope you will endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and to walk in love to God and one and another.

I feel myself utterly unworthy to take charge of a people, and very inadequate to the important task; and should I be ordained as your pastor; I must request the exercise of your candor and charity.

That I shall commit errors is very presumable, and should any of you discover anything, either in my preaching or conduct which you may consider as

such; I shall esteem it an expression of kindness in you, to tell me of it with fidelity and tenderness. I trust if I am not deceived, that my greatest desires are, to be instrumental in promoting your eternal welfare; and I think I can say with the apostle, "I seek not yours but you"; nor is it possible for you to afford me greater happiness; than to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and to practice those amiable virtues enjoined in the gospel.

And now Brethren of the Church I beseech you for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the spirit; that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, and for the prosperity of His kingdom in this place, that there may be a copious effusion of the divine spirit upon sinners in this place, that multitudes may be converted from the error of their ways, to the wisdom of the just, that we may all be able to discharge with fidelity, the duties incumbent on us, and to lay hold on eternal life that we may be each others rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus, and that this may be the happy case of each one of us, is the fervent prayer of your affectionate friend in the bonds of the gospel.

ISAAC ROBINSON.

*Stoddard, Nov. 13, 1802.*

Those who have attended to the ministration of Dr. Robinson, will recognize the similarity of this address to the people of his charge, and his preaching for the long period of his labors in this town.

Mr. Robinson was ordained January 5th 1803, at the age of 22 years, and he still remains pastor of the Congregational church and society in Stoddard.

The Ecclesiastical council consisted of:  
 Rev. Aaron Hall, of Keene and delegates.  
 Rev. Elisha Fish, of Gilsum and delegates.  
 Rev. Reed Page, of Hancock and delegates.  
 Rev. Gad Newell, of Nelson and delegates.  
 Rev. John H. Church, of Pelham and delegates.  
 Rev. William Muzzy, of Sullivan and delegates.  
 Rev. Walter Fullerton, of Antrim and delegates.  
 Rev. Levi Laneton, of Alstead and delegates.

## ORDER OF ORDINATION.

Introductory prayer,	by Rev. John H. Church
Sermon,	by Rev. Reed Page
Consecrating prayer,	by Rev. Levi Laneton
Charge,	by Rev. Aaron Hall
Right hand of fellowship,	by Rev. William Muzzy
Concluding prayer,	by Rev. Walter Fullerton

One person, only of the council or delegates who assisted at Dr. Robinson's ordination, are now living.

Rev. Abner Newell, of Nelson still survives, and is over ninety years of age. It is several years since he was discharged from pastoral duties, but he attends religious meetings constantly, and is a remarkable spry old man.

It is fifty years since Mr. Robinson has ministered to the spiritual wants of the people in Stoddard. It has been very seldom, that he has been prevented from attending to pastoral duties on account of ill health, no storms, nor inclemency of weather, has kept him from the sanctuary on a sabbath day; although for forty years, he resided a mile and a half from the middle of the town; for the last ten years, he has not failed in supplying the desk, a

single sabbath day.

On the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination (Jan. 5, 1853) the members of his congregation, to the number of about one hundred, waited upon him at his residence, to congratulate him on so uncommon an event; and services suited to the occasion were held. As they were about to leave, Gilmon Scripture, Esq. in behalf of the friends assembled, presented him with fifty dollars and an elegant bible with the following inscription:

PRESENTED

TO THE

REV. DR. ROBINSON,

By the members of his Church and Congregation,  
on the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Ordination,  
January 5th, 1853.

In the summer of 1842, without the knowledge of any one, and to the surprise of all, Mr. Robinson, at the close of his services on one sabbath, asked a dismission from his society in town, and that a council be immediately called. Accordingly a council consisting of Rev. Messrs. Whiton, of Antrim, Gerould, of Alstead, Atwood, of Sullivan, was held at the dwelling house of Deacon Joslin.

All the argument offered by Mr. R. in favor of a dismissal was, "that he was doing no good." The council not finding sufficient reason for dismissing him, also the members of his church and society appeared and contended earnestly that he should remain with them. He was dismissed however on conditions. He should stay and preach as usual until February following, and then if terms were

proposed that should be satisfactory to pastor and people he should remain; if not he was considered discharged from further service. A meeting was soon called and a committee was chosen, who were to consult with Mr. Robinson and obtain from him terms, that would be satisfactory, and report at an adjourned meeting. The committee reported at the adjourned meeting; that Mr. Robinson had consented to remain with his people, if they requested, on condition that they pay him his original salary (\$200.67) and form a society, for the assurance of the payment of it.

A society was soon organized consisting of 44 members. His salary was raised by voluntary subscription as usual till 1846, when it was voted to raise it by a tax on the members. This was found to give dissatisfaction to some of those whose taxes were high. Mr. Robinson, requested that the tax should be reduced one-fourth part, which would reduce it to two hundred dollars which is the sum raised annually since.

At the annual meeting of the society, in November 1853, the following resolutions were introduced by a member.

*Resolved.* That while we fully appreciate the untiring zeal and faithful labors of Rev. Isaac Robinson, over this church and society, for half a century, we are nevertheless admonished by his advanced age, physical debility and mental decay, that he is unable much longer to perform the amount of ministerial labor required among a people so remotely scattered."

*Resolved.* That the executive committee of this

society, be authorized to consult with Dr. Robinson in reference to the above resolution, and to express to him the determination of the society, to continue him as their pastor, so long as it shall be his pleasure to remain such; and that should he be of opinion that he was unable to the task; we will take such measures, as his judgement shall dictate in reference to a future supply.

The resolutions were adopted and a copy transmitted to Dr. Robinson, by a committee appointed for that purpose; but they were not received by him in a friendly manner, which was unexpected by the committee and the members of the society. He considered, they conveyed to him a hint that his services were not wanted, and that he should resign his ministerial charge; accordingly, on the second sabbath in January, at the close of his exercises, he asked a dismissal from his society, to take effect the first of May, and a council be called at that time.

The society held a meeting on the first of April and voted to concur in the request of Dr. Robinson; if it should be his wish to call a council, and chose a committee for that purpose. The committee held an interview with him; and the result was, that he should remain and preach as usual for one year.

(See Appendix.)

A society of Universalists has long existed in town.

A large number of influential and wealthy citizens have been of that order. They have had no settled minister, a great length of time. Ebenezer Paine was settled over the society, at Stoddard and Washington, in the early part of the present century.

Wm. S. Cilley, a native of Gilmanton, a useful



man and a good citizen, was settled over the society in 1839 and was dismissed in 1843.

Their ministers have usually been engaged for a season. Those who have officiated in town are Rev. Messrs. Willis, Balch, Barber, Skinner, Cooper, Smith, Britton, Spaulding, Wright and others.

## The South-west School District, Stoddard

### AS IT WAS, AND AS IT IS.

As the years are continually rolling away, a change in most of the circumstances of life are continually taking place among the inhabitants. Perhaps there is no place in this, or any other town, that has undergone so great a change as the school district known in former times by the South-West District. This district, at the time the writer was one among a large number of scholars, contained twenty-seven families. To give a short history of the place and the change that has taken place in the neighborhood is the object of the writer at this time and shall take names and places at his earliest recollection.

As it was said this was called the South-West district, consequently it was located in the south-west part of the town.

The first farm, we come at in that part of the town, is Ebenezer Tarbox's. His farm is still occupied by his son Mark Tarbox. His buildings and fences were all burned down during a severe drouth several years ago, but they were rebuilt; the farm has been set off from Stoddard and annexed to Nelson.

Adjoining the above is Elias McIntire, he died some years since, the farm is owned by Martin, his son, and is occupied by Augustus Howard, the old buildings are taken away, the present buildings some distance from the place.

The farm of Reuben Davis was sold to Sewel Page many years since, who still occupies it. Davis moved to Charlestown. Page came from Fitchburg.

Jonathan Petts lived a little north, he died many years since; the buildings remain, but the farm is mostly pastured. Mr. Petts raised a large family but none of them remain in town.

A house and barn was built a little west of the last mentioned by Benjamin Felt, was subsequently sold to Solomon Easty and is now owned by Sterns Tarbox, but is not occupied.

A little further north lived Jacob Blodgett and his son Nathaniel. The farm was sold and Mr. Blodgett lived in several places but died in Marlow.

Nathaniel became involved in debt and "ran away" but came back and died in the north part of the town from a wound received while dressing a calf.

He had a large family but they all died of consumption, there is not a descendent from either family in town.

John Brooks lived further east, he died while in the prime of life, his family returned to Princetown, his former residence; his buildings were taken away, the farm is a pasture and owned by J. H. Melville and M. McIntire.

Near by lived Samuel Gerould, he died the year 1824; the farm is owned by his son, Samuel and is pastured, some of the buildings remain. Samuel

lives at the middle of the town.

On the extreme north lived Joseph Dodge, he was one of the first settlers in the town; on the same lot lived Reuel Dodge, his son. Reuel still lives with his son Loyal, at the middle of the town; the farms are still occupied, the former by Dodge's descendants; the latter by Harrison Dunn; his father lives with him.

Ephraim Dakin lived up the hill farther south.

Mr. Dakin came from Concord, Mass. raised a large family, he moved to Roxbury and none of his family are in town. His farm is owned by J. Smith and is pastured.

The old Dick Emerson place (as it was called) subsequently owned and occupied by Jonathan Emerson, is pastured, the buildings are gone and is owned by J. H. Melville; Emerson lives at the middle of the town.

Moses Emerson's place is also pastured. A remnant of the buildings remain, the farm also is owned by J. H. Melville. Emerson went to Richmond.

The John B. Flint place is mostly owned by George White of Sullivan, and pastured. Mr. Flint died, 1816, the farm was owned and occupied for many years by his son John; he sold and went to Hancock.

Joel Flint died in 1822 or 3. Mr. Flint had a large family but no descendant of his, or J. B. Flint, are in town; his death was caused by a prick of a nail, he was handling some boards and received a wound on his thumb which caused his death, in three or four days. His farm was sold, Job Brooks, Jr. became the purchaser, the buildings were carried

away, the farm is pastured.

Job Brooks, Senior, lived on the next farm. He also raised a large family. He went to live with Daniel, his son, and died at Charlestown. No descendant nor a relative remains in town. Gardner his son, was settled at home, he became involved in debt, he went away privately and died in Illinois in 1850; the farm was sold to satisfy creditors, it was purchased by Job Brooks, Jr. Both sets of buildings taken down and is used (most of it) for a pasture.

The farm owned by James Wilson was also purchased by J. Brooks. Wilson came from Peterboro when quite a young man, lived here with his mother several years, he afterwards married and raised a family, moved to Keene where he died several years ago. The above named farm with the two last mentioned and a part of the John Flint place, are owned by the town, used to keep the poor belonging to the town.

Isaac Fisher died, 1816, he came from Wrentham, raised a family of six children, all have died. One however, by a second marriage, lives in Alstead.

His farm was owned and occupied by Hermon Fisher his son, for several years, he left and went to Nelson Factory and died some years after. The farm was sold and Nathan Nye became the purchaser and still lives on it.

The old residence of Joseph Wilson, situated near the above, was purchased by Hermon Fisher and the buildings taken down. Wilson built on the north side of the pond where Rodney now lives.

At the foot of the hill, farther south, stood an old grist-mill owned by Israel Abbott, afterwards occu-

pied by Abner Bennett; they both went to Charlestown and Reuben Barrett was the last occupant, he went to the state of Maine.

In an easterly direction lived Reuben Barrett, Senior, he lived to a good old age, his farm came into the hands of Job, his son. It was conveyed to Noah Blodgett and at this time is owned and occupied by Isaac Dunn.

A little farther east, Benjamin Felt built and lived a few years, he left and went to Nelson Factory, the farm was purchased by Artemas Parker, he came from Chelmsford, he lived on it a few years and went back to Chelmsford; the farm is pastured, the buildings moved off.

The homestead of Simeon Gould was the next in course, he came from New Ipswich and settled while the farm was a wilderness. Perhaps no man in town has been more engaged in town business than he. For 14 years he held the office of town-clerk and selectman, he died, 1816, the farm has been occupied since by the writer of this sheet. The house was burnt in 1836 and the location has been changed.

Enos Goodale lived near, he was a native of Shrewsbury, Mass, came here while in early manhood, had quite a large family, he gave his property to his son Joel for a maintenance. They did not agree, Joel left, went West, the old man gave the use of the farm to any one that would board him, when this failed the town took care of him, he died at the age of 61, the farm after changing owners several times, was bought by Joel Shedd who still lives on it.

The last on this list is Samuel Morrison, he came from Peterboro and went back there where he died.

The farm is owned by William Robb, the buildings are taken away, and it is pastured.

There is still one place that has not been noticed, one building that has not been registered in the catalogue of events. The history of the old school house remains yet to be told.

It has stood neglected and unoccupied for years, the wreck of former days, exposed to the ravages of time, and the pelting blasts of the north-east storms. The windows broken in, the clapboards are falling off, the doors off their hinges, the chimney fallen down and the seats and benches torn to pieces. Instead of school boys and girls assembling there to receive instruction in the useful branches, it has been occupied by cattle and sheep as a shade from the scorching rays of the sun or a shelter from the chilling blasts of cold storms. But the old school house too is gone. In the last summer, 1852, it was taken down, and nothing remains but a pile of rubbish to mark the spot where it stood.

This was the third school house built in this district. The two preceding it, were burnt. The first during a severe storm, February, 1802, the other about the year 1810, (this house built 1816.)

As we said at the commencement of these pages, the district contained 27 families but at the present time they are reduced to 10, of course 17 farms or places that were occupied by families, are now entirely destitute of any inhabitants. As the inhabitants moved away, conveniencies for schooling became more inconvenient and one after another,

were added to the district where they could be better accommodated. In the north part (the Dodges) were added to the middle of the town district. All at the west of the Brooks' hill were set off by themselves, but have been to Nelson for the benefit of schooling. George R. Wilson has since been added to that district. The farms of Mr. Gould and Goodale have been added to the district, east, and at this time there remains but three families of that once large and flourishing school district.

The question naturally arises, what has been the cause of so great a decrease of the population in this part of the town? It is a question more easily asked, than answered.

When a place becomes desolate, when the buildings go to decay, the fences and farms get out of repair, and the appearance of waste and ruin on every side, the cause is often, very often found in the use of intoxicating drink, but in this case I am not prepared to give that as the principal cause.

It was here as in other places at that time, all used spirits and some to excess frequently. Yet I know of but two families who were made unhappy or much disturbed, and whose property was much diminished by intemperance.

L. GOULD

*Stoddard, February 12, 1853.*

# STODDARD TAX-PAYERS IN 1800,

WITH THEIR RESIDENCE AND THEIR SUCCESSORS.

—O—

EPIHRAIM ADAMS, began a farm and occupied it during his life in the westerly part of the town. His son Ephraim settled with him, but died in early life, (lived on the farm but left and went to Sullivan, the buildings are taken down.) Another son, Stephen occupied the farm till his death, and Jonas also owned with him.

JOHN ADAMS, lived where H. Jerome Messenger lives. He gave his property to Hermon Messenger for a maintenance. Messenger died. His widow and her son own the place.

ISRAEL ABBOTT, lived at the foot of what is called Tolman hill, on the old road leading to Nelson.

He went to Charlestown. The place was afterwards occupied by Abner Bennet, and subsequently by Reuben Barrett, Jr. the buildings have been gone many years. A grist-mill was in operation at the time.

DAVID ALLEN, lived where Josiah M. Rice now lives. He left town and Aaron Fairbanks, afterward Aaron, Jr., owned and occupied it. The farm got into the hand of Amisa, Aaron's son, who sold it to Peter Rice, Josiah's father, he died and left it to his widow and family.

JOHN BROOKS, lived on the place owned by Josiah H. Melville. It was began by Allen Spear. After



Mr. Brooks died, the place was occupied by several persons for a few years, but it is many years since the buildings have been taken down.

ISAAC BARRETT, lived on the place now owned by Nathaniel Friend. He was killed by his horse running with him, while one foot was held in the stirrup.

The farm was afterwards owned by Samuel Tenney, Jesse Pike and Wilder Knight.

OLIVER BOUTWELL, owned a farm joining Col. Evens, a part of it he sold to Nathan Gould who built on it and lived several years, he took the buildings down and moved them to the middle of the town. The Boutwell place was presently owned by William Dutton.

JOB BROOKS, owned a farm in the south part of the town, lived on it till age rendered him incapable of labor, when he went to live with his son Daniel, and died at Charlestown. He settled his son Gardner, at home, but he became involved in debt, left town and died at Illinois near Chicago. The farm was sold in pieces and is now owned by the town as a home for paupers.

REUBEN BARRETT, began on a farm the first lot in the 8th range. After becoming aged, he sold to Reuben Scripture but took it back and lived alone several years, but gave it to his son Job, for a maintenance, Job conveyed it to Noah Blodgett.

After shifting owners a few times it was purchased by Governor McClure, who lives on it.

JACOB BLODGETT, lived at a place owned by Martin McIntire. He left it many years ago and no one has lived there since. It is a pasture.

JOHN BROWN, had no permanent residence, he

lived in several different places.

JAMES BALL, lived where William Robb lives. He sold to Robb, where he has ever lived.

EDWARD BATES, lived off from the road southwest from the Joshua Reed place. It is not known whether any other person ever lived there.

NATHANIEL BLODGETT, formerly lived on the same lot with his father, afterwards lived and died on a place now owned by Elias D. Eliott, near Franklin Richardson's.

DANIEL CRAM, lived on the road leading to Marlow. His son Andrew, lived there many years after him and subsequently Andrew, Jr. After the building of the Forest road, the buildings were moved to near that road and owned by Hervey Thompson and now owned by Harrison Dunn, who lives on it.

JOHN BARKER, lived in what was called "Leominster corner" on a farm owned by Frederick Picher, it was formerly owned by Samuel Farnsworth. Guile Barker owned, after his father's decease and sold to Picher.

NOAH BARDEN, lived at a place now owned by Isaac Duncan and is rented to some one. Noah, Jr. lived on it several years after his father's decease.

AQUILLA AND EBENEZER BARDEN, lived at the east part of the town, the place not known.

PHILIP BARDEN, lived where his son Lewis now owns.

ABISHA COLTON, was the first settled minister in town who lived on the minister lot, the buildings were west from the residence of the late Rev. Dr. Robinson.

ASA CHANDLER, once lived on the farm long owned

by Rev. I. Robinson but exchanged farms with Daniel Foster and went to the southerly part of the town, near where Cummings Moor's mills are.

WILLARD COREY, lived on the same farm that he still lives on. For many years the buildings were away from any road, but new ones were erected after the Forest road was opened. Willard, Jr., manages the farm.

WILLIAM CHAMBERS, lived, while in town, on the farm where Elias Whitney now resides. It was purchased by Timothy Hunt, after Mr. Hunt left town, Sampson Jenkins occupied it a short time, subsequently Mr. Whitney became the owner.

WILLIAM COREY, lived more than a mile about north from the middle of the town, no one lives there and no road passes the place.

JACOB COPELAND, lived where his son Asa, now lives.

JOHN D. COPELAND, lived where Timothy Hunt lives.

ISAAC COPELAND, lived where Silas Messenger lives, he purchased the farm long owned by William Picher, where he still lives.

ABRAHAM COPELAND, lived many years with John Spaulding. Cleon G. Towne became the owner and lived on it and is still in the hands of his descendants.

ISAAC CARTER, was at the east part of the town.

## APPENDIX.

Rev. Isaac Robinson, D. D., died, July 9, 1854, aged 74 years, and in the fifty-second year of his ministry. At that time Mrs. Robinson was laboring under a species of mental derangement, and his two daughters were at the insane hospital in Concord.

Mrs. Robinson went to board with a family in the neighborhood but died on the first day of September after. The youngest daughter Emily, returned from Concord soon, and went to live with a sister in New-York, thus in less than two months the heads of this long respected family died, their family broken up, and their personal property sold at auction. Dr. Robinson was a remarkable man. In early life he educated himself in all kinds human and divine learning, without ever having been within the walls of a college, he made himself a more profound scholar than almost any one, who had spent his whole life in it. Although he labored on a farm till he was 18 years of age, the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages were completed in early life, and having pursued a course of theological studies, was settled shortly after arriving to the age of manhood. In 1847, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him, by Dartmouth college, and no man was more worthy.

As a Theological writer Dr. Robinson was surpassed by no one; and had very few equals, although not many of his works have appeared in public.

The columns of the Congregational Journal, have

frequently been favored with the productions of his pen.

About the year 1815, he visited Acworth, during a powerful revival of religion in that town. The next sabbath, he preached a sermon from Luke 15, 10. "Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God, over one sinner that repenteth," in which he gave an interesting account of the revival, and many incidents connected with it; which sermon was printed, by the request of his audience, and was considered one of his most extra productions.

In 1809, a doctrinal controversy was carried on between Dr. Robinson and the Rev. Mr. Paine of Washington, and Rev. Hosea Ballou of Vermont.

The origin of the controversy was as follows: Rev. Messrs. Paine & Ballou, addressed a letter to three Orthodox ministers, viz.: Rev. L. Robinson, Rev. Reed Page, of Hancock and Rev. Stephen Chapin of Hillsborough, inviting them to a verbal dispute, on the subject of Universal Salvation. Rev. Mr. Chapin being out of health at the time, Messrs. Robinson & Page wrote a reply, in which, after declining, for reasons which they there stated, a verbal dispute, they informed Messrs. Paine & Ballou, that if either of them should see fit to publish on the subject, one or the other of them, would attempt a reply. Accordingly, Mr. Paine published a pamphlet entitled a "Doctrinal Controversy, &c." to which Mr. Robinson published a pamphlet entitled "A Candid Reply." To this Mr. Ballou wrote an answer, but a very few of them were ever circulated.

Joseph Healy, Esq., immediately issued a pamph-

let exposing the character of Mr. Paine. Mr. Ballou's attempting to vindicate him, turned the controversy into a different channel, and no answer appeared necessary to Mr. Ballou's rejoinder. These works were widely circulated and extensively read.

A similar controversy was began in 1826, between Mr. Robinson and Rev. Mr. Sullivan, of Keene, Unitarian clergymen, under the following circumstances. Rev. Dr. Robinson preached a sermon at Nelson, "illustrating the human and official inferiority and supreme divinity of Jesus Christ," which was published by request of the audience. On this sermon Mr. Sullivan published "remarks." Dr. Robinson then published "a Review," on this review Mr. Sullivan published a "Reply," of this reply, Dr. Robinson published a brief examination. To this Mr. Sullivan replied in a pamphlet entitled "A brief exposure of Mr. Robinson's evasions, perversions, &c. On this last pamphlet, Dr. wrote "Strictures," which ended the controversy.

The summer of 1854 was memorable for the excessive drouth, perhaps its equal has never been known. Streams of water were dried up, that was never known to be dry by the "oldest inhabitant."

Grasshoppers, in some parts of the town, were numerous and made much havoc among the fields of grain, the crop of hay was light, being the third year, that the hay crop was reduced one-half, from an ordinary one. Fire too, made great havoc among the timber and woodland. In the early part of September, a fire was raging in a piece of land, covered with brush and other combustible matter.

On the Forest road, towards Hancock, a three

horse team was passing at the same time, loaded with merchandize. The fire approached with such rapidity, that the teamster escaped to save his life; but the horses were left to perish and the wagon and goods were entirely consumed.

1855.—Tuesday, Feb. 6, a remarkably cold day, the coldest for 45 years, thermometer 33 degrees below zero. In Massachusetts it was much colder.

## TOWN OFFICERS.

## TOWN CLERKS.

NO. YEARS.		NO. YEARS.	
1774, Oliver Parker,	2	1798, Simeon Gould,	4
1776, Isaac Temple,	2	1802, Jonathan Davis,	1
1778, Ephraim Adams,	2	1803, Simeon Gould,	9
1780, Seth Wheeler,	1	1812, Aaron Matson,	1
1781, Nath'l Emerson,	2	1813, Isaiah Reed,	1
1783, Ephraim Adams,	2	1814, Aaron Matson,	7
1785, Israel Towne,	1	1821, Danforth Taylor,	6
1786, Eleazer Blake,	1	1827, Frances Matson,	3
1787, Ephraim Adams,	1	1830, Danforth Taylor,	2
1788, Ward Eddy,	1	1832, J. W. Eaton,	8
1789, Israel Towne,	2	1841, William S. Cilley,	3
1791, Nath'l Emerson,	1	1844, Jonas P. Reed,	7
1792, Nathaniel Evens,	1	1851, Eben A. Rice,	2
1793, Eleazer Blake,	1	1853, Ches. A. Blodgett.	
1794, Gardner Towne,	1		
1795, Ward Eddy,	3		

## SELECTMEN.

1774, Oliver Parker,	Jonathan Bennet,	Silas Wright.
1775, Oliver Parker,	Isaac Temple,	Ephraim Adams.
1776, Alexander Scott,	Nathaniel Emerson,	Isaac Kinney.
1777, Isaac Temple,	Silas Wright,	John Dutton.
	Joseph Dodge,	John Farley.
1778, Ephraim Adams,	Abraham Morrison,	John Spaulding.

1779.	Ephraim Adams,	Seth Wheeler,	Jacob Copeland.
1780.	Seth Wheeler,	David Haws,	Samuel Parks.
1781.	Nath'l Emerson,	Ephraim Adams,	James Wilson.
1782.	Nath'l Emerson,	David Scott,	Beaoni Boynton.
1783-4	Ephraim Adams,	Israel Towne,	James Scott.
1785.	Israel Towne,	Edmund Ingalls,	Peter Wright.
1786.	Edmund Ingalls,	Peter Wright,	Ward Eddy.
1787.	Ephraim Adams,	Israel Towne,	Isaac Thompson.
1788.	Ephraim Adams,	Ward Eddy,	Peter Wright.
1789.	Israel Towne,	Jacob Copeland,	William Osgood.
1790.	Israel Towne,	Jacob Copeland,	James Scott.
1791.	Nath'l Emerson,	Isaac Fisher,	David Joslin.
1792.	Nathaniel Evens,	David Joslin,	Isaac Fisher.
1793.	Eleazer Blake,	Nathaniel Evens,	Edmund Ingalls.
	Nath'l Joslin,	Gardner Towne.	
1794.	Gardner Towne,	David Joslin,	Nathaniel Joslin.
1795.	David Joslin,	Nathaniel Joslin,	Nathaniel Evens.
1796.	Isaac Fisher,	Timothy Thompson,	John Spaulding.
1797.	Simeon Gould,	Asher Loveland,	Benjamin Wright.
	Job Brooks,	Enos Locke.	
1798.	Simeon Gould,	Jacob Copeland,	Nathaniel Evens.
1799.	Simeon Gould,	David Joslin,	Asher Loveland.
1800.	Simeon Gould,	David Joslin,	Jacob Copeland.
1801.	S. Gould,	D. Joslin,	Simon Greenwood.
1802.	Jonathan Davis,	Simon Greenwood,	Nathaniel Evens.
1804-5-6.	S. Gould,	D. Joslin,	J. Copeland.
1807.	S. Gould,	D. Joslin,	Aaron Matson.
1808-9.	S. Gould,	A. Matson.	Benjamin Wright.
1810-11.	S. Gould,	D. Joslin,	Isaiah Reed.
1812.	Aaron Matson,	Isaiah Reed,	Danforth Taylor.
1813.	Isaiah Reed,	Nathaniel Joslin,	Moody Cutter.
1814-15.	A. Matson,	D. Taylor,	B. Wright.
1816.	A. Matson,	D. Taylor,	D. Joslin.
1817.	A. Matson,	D. Taylor,	Benjamin Wright.
1818-19-20.	A. Matson,	Lucas Thompson,	Danforth Taylor.
1821-2.	D. Taylor,	L. Thompson,	Abraham Copeland.
1823-4-5-6.	D. Taylor,	Frances Matson,	Isaac Duncan.
1827-8-9.	F. Matson,	Isaac Duncan,	Isaiah Reed.
1830.	D. Taylor,	Jacob Taylor,	Lucas Thompson.
1831.	D. Taylor,	L. Thompson,	Bethuel Thompson.
1832-3.	Jacob Taylor,	William Wilson,	William Shedd.
1834.	Frances Matson,	William Wilson,	B. Thompson.
1835-6.	Jacob Taylor,	J. W. Eaton,	William Wilson.



1837. William Wilson,	Isaiah Reed,	Israel F. Towne,
1838. Jacob Taylor,	Isaiah Reed,	I. F. Towne,
1839. J. Taylor,	I. F. Towne,	Edward L. Vose,
1840. William Wilson,	Silas Dinsmore,	Frederick Brooks,
1841-2. S. Dinsmore,	Jonas P. Reed,	Eliphalet Fox,
1843-45. J. Taylor,	Cleon G. Towne,	Gilman Scripture,
1846. William Wilson,	G. Scripture,	E. Fox,
1847. Cleon G. Towne,	Eliphalet Fox,	Ephraim Stevens,
1848. E. Stevens,	William Wilson,	William F. Loomis,
1849. Jacob Taylor,	E. Stevens,	William F. Loomis,
1850. J. Taylor,	C. G. Towne,	Luman Weeks,
1851. G. Scripture,	Luman Weeks,	Abner Knowlton,
1852. William Wilson,	A. Knowlton,	Nathan Morse,
1853. Silas Dinsmore,	E. Fox,	John S. Wilson,

## REPRESENTATIVES.

	YRS.		YRS.
1704-5, Nath'l Emerson,	2	1828, F. Matson,	1
1797, Jacob Copeland,	1	1829-32, D. Taylor,	4
1708-1801, N. Emerson,	4	1833, J. W. Eaton,	1
1802, Gardner Towne,	1	1834-5, Jacob Taylor,	2
1803, David Joslin,	1	1836, Isaac Duncan,	1
1804-5, Nath'l Emerson,	2	1837-8, Jacob Taylor,	2
1806-7, Aaron Matson,	2	1839, J. W. Eaton,	1
1808-9, Gardner Towne,	2	1840-1, Asa Copeland,	2
1810-13, A. Matson,	4	1842, Isaiah Reed,	1
1814-16, D. Taylor,	3	1843-4, J. Taylor,	2
1817, Aaron Matson,	1	1845, J. W. Eaton,	1
1818, Danforth Taylor,	1	1846, J. Taylor,	1
1819, A. Matson,	1	1847-8, A. Knowlton,	2
1820-2, D. Taylor,	3	1849-50, Wm. Wilson,	2
1823-6, Francis Matson,	4	1851-2, Eliphalet Fox,	2
1827, Aaron Matson,	1	1853, Ebenezer Rice,	

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE,

NOW IN COMMISSION.

Jacob Taylor,	Abner Knowlton,
William Wilson,	Eliphalet Fox,

Isaiah Gould, Jonas T. Reed,  
 Gilman Scripture, Gardner Towne,  
 Ebenezer A. Rice.

THE NAMES OF MEN FOUND ON THE TOWN BOOKS,  
 Who lived in town between 1775 and 1800, and  
 have no descendants left and the present  
 generation know nothing of them.

Nehemiah Adams,	Joel Gilson,	Asa Parker,
Thomas Adams,	Patrick Grady,	Phinehas Parker,
Zachariah Adams,	Joshua Hogg,	Thomas Robbins,
Elee Adams,	David Haws,	Henry Spaulding,
Jonathan Bennet,	Richard Holding,	Allen Spear,
Amos Butterfield,	Caleb Hunt,	Samuel Sever,
Thomas Burdit,	Joseph Hazeltine,	Josiah Shapeley,
Aaron Blaisdel,	Ambrose Hale,	John Stroud,
Baruch Bolster,	Jesse Howard,	John Tenny,
Joseph Brockway,	Jonathan Hamblet,	Isaac Temple,
Benoni Boynton,	Edmund Ingalls,	Joseph Taylor,
Andrew Boynton,	James Jerrett,	Ebenezer Taylor,
James Crosfield,	Daniel Kenny,	Amos Taylor,
Jonathan Cummings,	Moses Kenny,	Abraham Taylor,
Jonathan Chandler,	Daniel Keys,	Isaac Taylor,
Thomas Cummings,	Jacob Kemp,	Stephen Twitchell,
Samuel McCloud,	Ezekiel Kingsbury,	John Wilson,
William Dutton,	Isaac Kimball,	John Wasson,
John Dutton,	John N. Mather,	Joseph Wheat,
John Davis,	Dennis Organ,	Abner Whitney,
William Eaton,	John Ober,	Samuel Wells,
Samuel Farnsworth,	Samuel Parks,	Joseph Woods,
William Frink,	Samuel Parker,	Paul Wright,
Stephen Greswold,	Nathan Procter,	Eleezer Wright.

THE FIRST TAX ASSESSED IN TOWN WAS IN 1784.

THE FOLLOWING WERE THOSE WHO PAID IT.

*Obadiah Jenkins,	*William Robb,	Samuel Seward,
Lemuel Jenkins,	*Samuel Robb,	*Josiah Seward,
John Walton,	John Morrison,	Ezra Ausgood,
*Ephraim Adams,	Samuel Morrison,	*John Greene,
Phinehas Richardson,	Jesse Jaeson,	Jacob Kemp,
Samuel Sever,	James Robb,	*Daniel Locke,

\*Have descendants in town.

Samuel Gunstock,	Patrick Grady,	Enos Locke,
Elnathan Reed,	*Joshua Reed,	Benoni Boynton,
Abner Whitney,	Isaac Taylor,	Thomas Nickols,
Ebenezer Crain,	William Wilson,	Ebenezer Wright,
*Philip Barden,	*Nathaniel Evens,	*Jonathan Shedd,
Jesse Haywood,	Obadiah Jenkins, Jr.	Benjamin Howard,
*James Barden,	Harbor Farnsworth,	Ezra Baker,
*James Scott,	John Adams,	Amos Taylor,
Alexander Scott,	Oliver Hodgman,	Josiah Robbins,
Alexander Scott, Jr.,	Samuel Wilson,	Daniel Keys,
Nathan Hardy,	Samuel Farnsworth,	*James Wilson,
Isaiah Hardy,	Aaron Taylor,	David Morrison,
Jonas Hardy,	Samuel Evens,	*Phinchas Parker,
Arthur P. Hardy,	William Dutton,	Benjamin Davis,
Ebenezer Hardy,	*Joseph Dodge,	Asa Parker,
Benjamin Hardy,	*David Jenkins,	*Samuel Parker,
Capt. Silas Wright,	Jonathan Burnam,	John Farley,
Caleb Wright,	*Ichobod Kieth,	Job Brooks,
Daniel Stevens,	Nathan Bolster,	Allen Spear,
Samuel Gerould,	*Jacob Copeland,	Isaac Thompson,
Samuel McCloud,	Ephraim Brockway,	Jonathan Thompson,
Richard Emerson,	Dan Brockway,	Joel Gilson,
Edmund Taylor,	James Jerrett,	*Noah Woods,
Stephen Twitchell,	John Robb,	Moses Kenney,
Andrew Robb,	Eli Adams,	Isaac Kenney,
David Scott,	Isaac Barrett,	Daniel Kenney,
Nathan Procter,	Richard Holden,	Samuel Parks,
Aaron Fairbanks,	Eben'r Farley,	John Dutton,
Samuel Eades,	John N. Mather,	William Picher,
*Richard Richardson,	*John Henry,	Nathaniel Emerson,
*Levi Spaulding,	*John Henry, Jr.,	Israel Towne,
*John Spaulding,	Ziba Henry,	Israel Towne, Jr.
Jonathan Cummings,	Benjamin Dunn,	William Towne,
*John Taggart,	*Peter Wright,	Edmund Ingalls,

## THE FOLLOWING WERE TAX-PAYERS IN 1800.

Ephraim Adams,	Timothy Bailey,	*John Barker,
Ephraim Adams, Jr.,	*Job Brooks,	John Ball,
John Adams,	Reuben Barrett,	Noah Barden,
Israel Abbott,	Jacob Blodgett,	Aquila Barden,
David Allen,	John Brown,	*Philip Barden,

\*Have Descendants in Town

John Brooks,	James Ball,	-Ebenezer Barden,
Ebenezer Blake,	Edward Bates,	Abisha Colton,
-Isaac Barrett,	Nathaniel Blodgett,	John Cram,
Oliver Boutwell,	Daniel Cram,	-John Cram, Jr.,
Andrew Cram,	Cyrus Alexander,	-John Henry, Jr.,
Asa Chandler,	William Eaton,	Beni Henry,
Abial Cram,	Aaron Fairbanks,	Reuben Hodgman,
-Willard Corey,	Aaron Fairbanks, Jr,	Benjamin Howard,
William Chambers,	Jonathan Felt,	-George Holmes,
-William Corey,	John B. Flint,	-Reuben Heath,
-Jacob Copeland,	-Daniel Foster,	Jesse Hardy,
-John D. Copeland,	-Joel Flint,	Joshua Hogg,
-Isaac Copeland,	-Isaac Fisher,	Stephen Hardy,
Abraham Copeland,	Harbor Farnsworth,	Josiah Hardy,
Stephen Carter,	Samuel Farnsworth,	Arthur P. Hardy,
-Isaac Carter,	-Samuel Foster,	Isaiah Hardy,
Jonas Chase,	Jonas Flint,	-Nathan Hardy,
-Samuel Dow,	Samuel Gregg,	Jesse Haywood,
-Benjamin Davis,	Simon Greenwood,	Edmund Ingalls,
-Benjamin Dunn,	-Nathaniel Gilson,	Obodiah Jenkins,
-Jonas Dunn,	-Simon Gould,	-Obodiah Jenkins, Jr.,
-Jonathan Davis,	-John Greene,	Jonathan Jenkins,
-Elijah Davis,	-Samuel Geronld,	-David Jenkins,
-Joseph Dodge,	-Enos Goodale,	-Nathaniel Joslin,
Renben Davis,	Ambrose Hale,	-David Joslin,
Ephraim Dakin,	John Holt,	-Jonathan Jeffts,
-Elijah Dodge,	William Howard,	Samuel Jones,
Joseph Emerson,	Samuel Hodges,	John Knight,
-Nathaniel Evens,	David Hodgman,	-Oliver Kemp,
Nathaniel Emerson,	-Oliver Hodgman,	-Oliver P. Kemp,
-Richard Emerson,	-Oliver Hodgman, Jr,	David Locke,
Moses Emerson,	-John Henry,	-Asher Loveland,
-Ziba Richardson,	-Enos Locke,	Eben Tarbox,
-Richard Richardson,	Aaron Matson,	-Israel Towne,
-Richard Richardson, Jr.,	Nathan B. Monroe,	-Israel Towne, Jr.,
Phinehas Richardson,	-Samuel Messenger,	-Danforth Taylor,
-Nathan Richardson,	Samuel Morrison,	-Benjamin Towne,
William Mansfield,	Elnathan Reed,	-John Taggart, L
-Willard Mansfield,	-John Spaulding,	-Gardner Towne,
John Morrison,	-Willard Spaulding,	Andrew Towne,
Robert Morrison,	-Levi Spaulding,	Daniel Towne,
Abraham Morrison,	Aaron Spaulding,	Jeremiah Wright,

-Have Descendants in town.

Hugh Maxfield,	Nathan Shedd,	Paul Wright,
Peter Niles,	-Jonathan Shedd,	-Peter Wright,
John Osgood,	Ambrose Stacy,	John Weston,
-Edward Phelps,	-Daniel Stevens,	Joel Wright,
-William Pieher,	-Henry Stevens,	Stephen Wright,
-Ellis Pieher,	David Scott,	-Silas Wright,
-Joseph Procter,	William Scott,	Silas Wright, Jr.
-Jason Parmenter,	-James Scott,	-Benjamin Wright,
Jonathan Petts,	John Stroud,	Ebenezer Wright,
-Azariah Procter,	Aaron Shattuck,	-Noah Wood,
-Samuel Robb,	-Asa Stevens,	-Samuel Wilson,
-Samuel Robb, Jr.,	Samuel Seyer,	-James Wilson,
Jonathan Thompson,	William Robb,	-James Wilson, Jr.
Andrew Robb,	Timothy Thompson,	-Joseph Wilson,
Moor Robb,	Amos Thompson,	-Jonas Wilson,
-Joshua Reed,	-Nathaniel Tuttle,	-Joel Wilson,
Eliakim Reed,	-Benjamin Tarble,	Joseph Wood,
-Isaiah Reed,	-Jonas Tarble,	

191 Families.

100, no descendants left.

-Have descendants in town.

1856, There are seven of the foregoing number remaining in town, viz.: Willard Corey, Isaac Copeland, Elijah Dodge, Samuel Foster, Oliver Hodgman, Isaiah Reed, Danforth Taylor.

Elijah Dodge, died March, 1857, Aged, 95.

## Some of the Early Settlers.

JOHN TAGGART, was the pioneer in the settlement of Stoddard. He came from Peterboro and settled near the village in the center of the town. His log hut stood near where Nathan Morse's buildings are.

The well that is back of his shop, it is said Mrs. Taggart dug with her fire shovel.

No one of the settlers suffered so much, none whose trials and hardships so great as was Mr. Taggart's. While we attempt to chronicle some of the events that transpired in the early days of our forefathers, the case of Mr. Taggart, deserves something more than a passing notice. He was born in

Londonderry, Ireland, in the year 1722. He came to this country when quite a lad, at the same time, came the young lady that was his future wife. They landed at Boston, and both were bound out to service to pay the expense of the voyage. In after years they were married and went to Londonderry, in this state, where they remained till about 1760, then they came to Peterboro and in 1768 came to Stoddard, then a howling wilderness.

Their nearest neighbors were at Peterboro, Walpole and Keene. Their provisions were to be brought from Peterboro by Mr. Taggart, on his back through the pathless wilderness and often through deep snows. On one occasion, the snow was so deep and the weather so extremely cold, that he delayed going for a supply of provision, till his whole stock was consumed, except the flesh of a Moose, Mr. Taggart then went for a supply. After arriving there another tremendous snow storm came, which made it impossible for him to return. Snow fell more than three feet deep in this storm. He remained there till the ninth morning before he attempted to return, then with a little meal and probably some other necessities upon his back, began his wearisome journey through the wilderness to his starving family. After arriving within sight of his cot, in the early part of the evening, he was so much overcome with the thought of the fate of his family, supposing that every member of it must have perished, that he was unable to proceed.

Having spent some time in reflection he approached the house, but was still unable to open the door till he heard a voice within. On entering the house

his first words were: "Be ye all alive?"

In view of the sufferings and danger they had experienced and the joy of finding himself again with his family and by his fireside, so completely overpowered them that no other word was spoken for many minutes and their gratitude was expressed by a profusion of tears.

Before his land was under cultivation his hay was cut on a piece of meadow land that was partly cleared by beavers, now owned by James Scott and known as the Moor Robb meadow, and drawn to his residence in the middle of the town, on a hand-sled (after making a path in the snow, on some warm day, with snow shoes) a distance between 3 and 4 miles, also on another piece of land cleared in the same manner, formerly owned by Peter Wright. In this manner Mr. Taggart obtained a sufficient quantity to keep his cow through the long winter.

He soon cleared his land and began to keep more stock, his sheep and sometimes young cattle were killed by wolves and other wild beasts. When he began to cultivate his land, his implements were of the rudest kind. The first plow ever used in town, Mr. Taggart brought from Peterboro, on his back, Mrs. Taggart brought at the same time, a foot spinning wheel.

Scarcely had he begun to enjoy the comforts of home and a release from the toil and hardship which he had experienced, before the war of the Revolution was about to commence. The domestic circle, his family and fireside were to be exchanged for the camp and the strife of contending armies.

His first service was with a party to cut a road that the army and military stores might be transported through the wilderness to Burlington. He then entered the army, but how long he remained in it, we have no means of knowing, probably his service was not of long continuance.

It is said he sold a pair of oxen for 40 dollars and paid the whole towards the support of the army.

Mrs. Taggart, too was far from "eating the bread of idleness." She was accustomed to perform much out of door labor. In the absence of her husband, the whole care of the farm and stock was assigned to her and in the most busy seasons of the year, would accompany him to his daily labor from home and has taken her sickle and gone with him to Peterboro, on Monday morning, and returned on Saturday night, receiving the same wages as her husband did.

Mr. Taggart died, 1792, aged 70 years. Their family consisted of ten children, none are in town.

The widow of his eldest son is still living here, aged 82.

RICHARD RICHARDSON'S, was the next family that came into town. They came from Townsend, Mass. in 1771. He began the place owned by Isaac P. Howe, died, 1843, aged 77. His family consisted of ten sons and two daughters, all have died except a daughter who lives in Alstead, two grandsons are all the relatives in town. The first child born in town was a son of Mr. Richardson. The proprietors had promised a lot of land to the first child born there and John Richardson was entitled to it.

Mr. Richardson was a soldier during the war of



the revolution, and was with Gen. Arnold as he went through the wilderness against Quebec, whose sufferings were extreme, their provisions were so reduced that each man's allowance was 3 ounces of bread and 3 of meat.

The widow of Richard Richardson, Jr. is still living in town, at the age of 80 years, the oldest person.

REUBEN WALTON, came here about the same time and built near where Samuel Copeland lives. His house was made by splitting ash logs into boards and pinning them on poles stuck into the ground.

He did not remain in town long and little is known of him.

BENJAMIN DUNN, came from Chelmsford, in 1771, he began the place owned by Joseph Richardson but lived in several different places, died, 1823, aged 76.

DAVID WILSON, from Peterboro, was the fifth family in town. He began the farm owned by the town as a Poor-farm. He died soon after, the family was broken up and Mrs. Wilson returned to Peterboro. She came back and John, her eldest son, attempted to clear up the farm, he died, and another son David, took the place but he left and went West and James the youngest, came and lived with his mother. Circumstances made it necessary for her to leave and go and live with a son at the West, where she died.

Few of the settlers underwent more hardship than old lady Wilson. She often travelled to Peterboro and carried a child in her arms, on one occasion she carried her child and a half bushel of meal with the assistance of a small boy.

JOHN N. MATHER, was in town as early as 1771. He came from Connecticut and began the farm known as the Cram place. He left town and went to Vermont.

JOSEPH DODGE, from Winchester, in 1772 moved into the house with Mr. Mather, and remained there a short time and then went on a farm at the lower end of Center Pond.

Mr. Dodge went into the Continental army in the early part of it and died at Philadelphia, in 1782, of the Small-Pox.

EPIRAIM ADAMS, long known as Deacon Adams, a native of Chelmsford, came to town in 1772.

Prior to his settling here, he came when quite young and assisted in laying out the town into lots.

Died, 1823, aged 72. Deacon Adams was a worthy man, was chosen Deacon of the church at its first organization in 1785, and held the office till he died.

OLIVER PARKER, was quite an early resident in town. He came from Groton as early as 1772 or 3.

When the town was incorporated in 1774, Mr. Parker was appointed to call the first meeting, and was chosen moderator, town-clerk and first selectman. Mr. Parker soon lost his popularity. At the breaking out of the Revolution war, his attachment to the mother country was so strong, that he found it necessary for him to leave town and took up a residence in the British dominions, off New Brunswick. He lived on the hill west of the village, built the house where Gardner Towne lives, and the town-meetings and religious meetings, for some years were held at his house. This house is the oldest dwelling house in town.

DAVID HAWS, married a daughter of Mr. Parker and began the farm where Jesse Wilder lives, he left and went with Mr. Parker when he left town.

JAMES WILSON, came from Townsend, Mass. in 1774. He began the farm where John Wilson (his son) lives. He came to town, cleared some land, raised grain and set out some fruit trees, before bringing his family. He raised apples from trees that he set out as early as 1770, the first that grew in town.

Mr. Wilson soon became a large land-holder and a wealthy man. The only road leading through town, for many years, passed by his residence. He kept a house of entertainment, it was extensively known as Wilson's Tavern. His family consisted of five sons and a daughter, the sons all settled in town; land sufficient for a good farm was furnished by the father. Jonas lived a little south of the old homestead, he was thrown from his horse and instantly killed in 1821, aged 43. No one of his family are in town. James lived and died where Hervey now lives. Joel lived many years where Deacon Luke Joslin lives and is the oldest person in town who was born here. Jesse was never married.

Mr. Wilson (senior) was a soldier in the French war. He went back to Townsend in 1767, died, 1809, aged 67.

BENJAMIN DAVIS, became a resident in town in 1772, he came from Chelmsford. He lived in several different places, but for the greater part of the time in the north-east part. He died, 1820, aged 80. His third wife died in 1853, at the age of 64.

SILAS WRIGHT, from Westford, came to town quite early, the precise time is not known, he was in town in 1774 and was one of the first board of selectmen, and was the first captain of a militia company. It is unknown at what time a company was organized but previous to 1784. He built mills at the Mill Village and the first in town. He also carried on tanning business for many years, one of his buildings used for a bark house, is still standing and is the oldest building in town, it is used by Wm. Parker for a barn.

PETER WRIGHT, from Westford, came at the same time and lived north from the middle of the town, not on any public road. Died, 1843, aged 91.

JACOB COPELAND, became an inhabitant in town in 1775, came from Stoughton, Mass. He began the farm where he lived to an advanced age, now owned by Asa, his son. He became a wealthy man and was often chosen as one of the selectmen and representative to the state legislature. He had six sons, who settled in town, four are now living here, viz.: Isaac, Asa, David and Samuel. Died, 1837, aged 91.

JOB BROOKS, a native of Lincoln, Mass. came to Hancock and lived some years. He became a resident in this town in 1787 or 8. The farm he long cultivated, is a part of the one owned by the town. It was not entirely new, some land had been cleared and a house built by John Farley. Mr. Brooks lived on the farm till age rendered him past labor, then he went to live with his eldest son Daniel, and died in Charlestown, N. H. He married Sally Hildreth, a very worthy woman, few women have

done more towards supporting a large family and performing faithfully the duties of a housekeeper than Mrs. Brooks. The first summer after they came to town, she was under the necessity of going to Mr. Gerould's, a distance of nearly a mile, to do all her baking, she would knead her dough, tie it up in a cloth and take it upon one arm, and her child upon the other and carry them across the woods and return at night with a supply of the "staff of life." In their family of ten children may be seen a rude specimen of nicknaming, their names were Sally, Daniel, Lucy, Job, Gardner, Tryphena, Candace, Alfred, Grosvenor and Lincoln, they were called by the parents and others, Sal, Dan, Luce, Job, Gard, Phene, Can, Arl, Grove and Link.

Job's name was afterwards changed to Frederick, by an act of the legislature and was called Fred, of course. No descendant or relative now live in town.

A neighborhood in the south-east part of the town was settled principally by emigrants from Peterboro, consequently were of the Scotch Irish descent, viz.: Alexander Scott, David Scott, John Robb and his sons Andrew and Moor, Patrick Grady, Samuel Robb, Samuel Morrison and perhaps others.

ALEXANDER SCOTT, was among the first settlers, his sons James and Alexander had at the time arrived at the age of manhood, they settled on the farm now owned and occupied by James Scott and has ever remained in the family.

DAVID SCOTT, another of the number, lived near to James. He raised a large family, they all died with consumption, while in the middle age of life.

except a daughter, who lives in Nelson. Died, 1855.

SAMUEL MORRISON, began the place that still bears his name. After clearing up his farm and becoming somewhat wealthy, he went back to Peterboro.

SAMUEL ROBB, built on the same lot with Morrison but many years since moved to the place where his son James now lives, he built a grist and saw mill.

JOHN ROBB, with Andrew his son, lived a little south of where Daniel Upton's buildings stand.

The house bore the name of the "Old Ark" from what cause is unknown. They moved to Antrim in 1796 and began to clear up that extensive range of pasture land in the west part of the town, and for many years, was known as Robb's Mountain.

Andrew left many years ago and went to the state of New York, where he died.

MOOR ROBB, also went to the "Mountain" some years after Andrew, and went to New York also.

Uncle Moor as he was called, was quite hard of hearing, and it was said, had a faculty of hearing some things much better than others. When any thing was spoken of, against his interest or convenience, he was quite deaf, but if any one should ask him to drink a little toddy, he could hear as readily as most men.

When he went to the "Mountain" the land, being new and after taking off a crop of rye, it produced herdsgrass in large quantities, which was harvested merely to obtain the seed. Uncle Moor having a quantity one year, went to Stoddard and sold it to the trader there for less than the worth of it, not knowing the price, and was to carry it up the next time he went. He soon found he had made a bad

bargain, and did not carry it as he had agreed and the following dialogue took place.

Trader, says: "Uncle Moor did you bring that grass seed?"

Moor: "No."

Trader: "Well, I depend upon it."

Moor: "Did you say you didn't want it?"

Trader: "No, I said I *did* want it."

Moor: "Ah! well, you needn't have it if you don't want it."

Trader: "But I *do* want it, I depend upon it."

Moor: "I thought it was a fair bargain enough but you needn't have it."

Trader: "But dam it I do want it, I depend upon it, I have promised it."

Moor: "I can sell it to Hancock and you needn't have it." As he was about to leave the store, he says, "Then you say you won't take that grass seed."

EXOS GOODMAN, a native of Shrewsbury, Mass. came to Temple, N. H. and lived some years and in 1787, came to the farm that long bore his name, now owned by Joel Shedd. He was in comfortable circumstances and took much pleasure in indulging the idea that he was better off than his neighbors.

His wife died in 1800, after her death, his property began to waste for the want of a housekeeper and other miscalculations, till the income of his farm (which was secured to him by a life lease) did not support him, he was assisted by the town. He died, 1836, aged 91 years. He has no descendant or relative in town except a daughter (Jane) and she is supported by the town.

A neighborhood, in the west part of the town was

settled between 1784 and 1790 by emigrants from Leominster, and has ever been called "Leominster corner." They were John, Nathaniel and David Joslin; Levi, Luther and Edward Phelps, John Barker, Levi Blood and Joseph Knight. John Joslin took up, what has been known as the Parmenter place. He sold out and removed to Jaffrey.

Luther Phelps' and Mr. Knight's farms were in Marlow and Mr. Blood's in Gilsum, although in the vicinity of those in Stoddard. Levi Phelps was never married, he was drowned in Chesterfield many years ago. They were an intelligent and industrious people. They lived in harmony with each other, most of them raised large families and accumulated a handsome property. Perhaps the most hostile affair, that ever occurred among them was a duel, it was one fought between Levi Phelps and a man by the name of Polly. Some dispute arose between them which was carried to such an extent, that a challenge was given by Phelps and accepted by Polly.

Col. Evens and David Joslin were chosen seconds. They were to use muskets. The parties insisted upon seeing the guns loaded with powder and balls.

The seconds were careful to extract the balls before giving the arms to the combatants. After receiving their instructions, the duelists took their position, marched the prescribed distance, wheeled about and fired; but as neither was killed "nor mortally wounded," a reconciliation was accomplished, with the aid of a few mugs of flip.

A son of Deacon Nathaniel Joslin and one of Mr. Knight's are all that remain in 'Leominster corner' of the original stock.



ISAAC AND JONATHAN THOMPSON, (brothers) came from Sterling, in 1781. Isaac began the place where he lived to an advanced age. Bethuel, his only son inherited the farm but afterwards sold it to Horace Barden. Mr. Thompson had but two children, they both live in town. He died, 1823, aged 94.

Jonathan Thompson, began the farm afterwards owned by Luman, his son, who died in early manhood, he then went to live with Jonathan, Jr., at Alstead, died, 1845, aged 94. It is a singular fact that these men, with another brother married three sisters, by the name of Osgood.

SAMUEL GEROULD, from Wrentham, Mass. came to town and began the farm where he afterwards lived and died. The farm is still owned by Samuel, his son, but is improved as a pasture, some of the old buildings are yet standing. His first beginning towards clearing his land, was on the memorable "Dark Day," May 19, 1786. Mr. Gerould died, 1824, aged 68.

WILLIAM PITCHER, a native of Rhode Island, came from Attleborough, in 1779, went on the farm now Isaac Copeland's, when it was a wilderness, died, 1824, aged 77.

GEORGE HOLMES, came from Sharon, Mass. in 1792, and began a farm in the westerly part of the town at the place known as the "Brown pasture."

He moved to the south part of the town to the farm now owned by Jesse Wilder, in 1800 or 1801, where he died, 1843, aged 82 years. His family consisted of ten children. He was the first who died in his family; although the youngest was 40 years

old at the time. All have left town but two daughters. The farm was began by David Haws, quite early.

ISAAC FISHER, began the farm where Nathan Nye lives, he came from Wrentham, Mass. Mr. Fisher was an intelligent man and quite independent in the circumstances of life. His family consisting of three sons and three daughters, were much respected.

All have died except a son by a second marriage, who lives in Alstead. His eldest daughter was married; she and her husband died within a few days of each other, in May, 1802, aged 22. Mr. Fisher died, 1816, aged 59.

JONATHAN PETTS, from Townsend, Mass. came to Stoddard in 1792 or 3. He found some land cleared and a log house and barn built. The farm was began by one, Smith from New Ipswich. Mr. Pett's family was large, but all have left town and no relative remains. Died 1827, aged 75.

JONAS CHASE, was at the east part of the town.

SAMUEL DOW, when first came to town, lived in a house west from where Gilson's tavern now stands.

He lived many years in a house south from E. Fox, Esq.'s residence but died at Mill Village.

BENJAMIN DAVIS, lived in several different places but most of the time at the east part.

BENJAMIN DUNN, when first came to town, lived where Joseph Richardson now is. The place was long known as the Stroud place, having been owned by a person by that name, afterwards was occupied by John Holt, Abner Bennett, Reuel Dodge, Benjamin Jenkins and others.

JONAS DUNN, had no permanent residence but

lived in many places.

JONATHAN DAVIS, lived and died where Obed Hale lives, formerly it was owned by Benona Boynton.

ELISHA DAVIS, lived where Marcus Davis is.

ASA DAVIS, lived many years where his father lived.

JOSEPH DODGE, lived south from Center pond, where his sons Rufus and Ralph lived some years, subsequently, Ralph and his son Milan.

REUBEN DAVIS, lived where Sewel Page now owns.

EPHRAIM DAKIN, was located on the north side of the hill, on the old road leading from Nelson.

RICHARD EMERSON, Jr., lived there before him.

ELIJAH DODGE, was 80 or 100 rods south from William Wilson's. Jonas Taylor owns the premises.

NATHANIEL EMERSON, lived where Abner Knowlton lives. After Esq. Emerson left town, the place was occupied by many individuals, till Aaron Matson, Esq. became the owner, he sold to Knowlton.

JOSEPH EMERSON, was with his father, Nathaniel Emerson.

NATHANIEL EVANS, first settled on the hill where he ever lived.

RICHARD EMERSON, lived at the height of land on the road from Nelson to Stoddard, south from the Dakin place. Jonathan, his son owned after him.

MOSES EMERSON, lived on the next farm south from Richard, his father. Jonathan Emerson lived there many years, afterwards Jonas Dunn and others.

CYRUS ALEXANDER, lived in a little house near where South Stoddard village is.

WILLIAM EATON, was at the east part of the town.

AARAN FAIRBANKS, lived where Josiah M. Rice now owns. Peter Rice lived there after Mr. Fairbanks.

JONATHAN FELT, lived where Martin McIntire now owns. He sold to Elias McIntire, Martin's father.

JOHN B. FLINT, lived off from the road leading from Nelson. John Flint, his son afterwards lived on the same place.

JOEL FLINT, lived near Job Brook's residence. No one lived there after him any length of time.

ISAAC FISHER, was where Nathan Nye now lives. Hermon, his son lived there many years after him.

HARBOR FARNSWORTH, lived on the farm that Jacob Taylor now owns.

SAMUEL FARNSWORTH, lived on the place long owned by Capt. John Barker, afterwards Guile Barker occupied it, now owned by Francis Picher.

SAMUEL FOSTER, still lives where he always has lived. Hosea Foster owns the farm.

JONAS FLINT, lived about west from Samuel Foster's

SIMON GREENWOOD, lived on the 19th lot in the 12th range commonly called the Dr. Eddy farm.

He lived many years with the doctor. The buildings are taken down.

NATHANIEL GILSON, owned and lived on the 25th lot in the 12th range. Peter Wright lived there afterwards.

SIMEON GOULD, began the 4th lot in the 8th range, after his decease, in 1816, the writer lived on it till 1855, it was sold to Manley McClure.

JOHN GREENE, lived on the 9th lot in the 12th

range. His son Amos, owned after him, afterwards Samuel C. and then Alonzo, Samuel's son, who conveyed it to a Mr. Whittier who occupies it still.

SAMUEL GEROULD, began the 6th lot in the 10th range lived on it till his decease. Samuel, Jr. occupied it many years then left it unoccupied.

ENOS GOODALE, went on the 5th lot in the 8th range from Temple, lived there till old age. It was after occupied by different persons, Joel Shedd owns it.

AMBROSE HALL, lived on a part of the 9th lot in 10th range. Reuel Dodge afterwards owned it also Isaac Procter and Harrison Dunn now owns it but lives at the west part of the town.

JOHN HOLT, once lived on the 5th lot in 7th range.

GEORGE HOLMES, came there about 1800, lived during life. Jesse Wilder came there from Keene.

WILLIAM HOWARD, lived on the 10th lot in 13th range. Heman Jenkins afterwards owned it, lived there several years and sold to Asa Davis, Jr.

SAMUEL HODGES, lived on the 11th lot in 16th range, long owned by Asahel Parmenter, subsequently by John Joslin, now by Luther Pieher.

DAVID HODGMAN, lived on the 15th lot and 16th range.

OLIVER HODGMAN, was 17th lot, 13th range.

OLIVER HODGMAN, Jr., lives on 18th lot in 14th range.

JOHN HENEY, was on 21st lot in 12th range. John, Jr., lived there after him, then John the third, when Benjamin Tarbel become owner.

BENJAMIN HOWARD, settled on 12th lot and 12th range. Worcester Howard, his son was settled at

home. The farm was sold to Gardner Towne.

Towne sold to Marshal Messenger. Mr. Howard, senior went to Swanzey and Worcester, moved to Westminster, Vt. subsequently to Boston.

GEORGE HOLMES, first lived on a lot in the westerly part of the town, moved to 5th lot and 7th range, where Jesse Wilder now lives.

REUBEN HEATH, lived on 24th lot and 13th range. Reuben, Jr., lived there after him. Nathaniel, his son occupies the place still with his mother.

JESSE HARDY, was at the east part, lot not known.

JOSHUA HOGG, lived on 22nd lot and 3rd range.

STEPHEN, JOSIAH AND ARTHUR P. HARDY, were at the east part.

ISAIAH HARDY, lived on 18th lot and 5th range, Samuel Stacy afterwards owned it, Gilman, his son is on it, 1858.

NATHAN HARDY's, was 19th lot and 6th range. Abel Stacy lived on it, after his death Daniel, his son lived there.

JESSE HAYWOOD, lived at the 16th lot and 4th range.

EDMUND INGALS, was a blacksmith, lived at the middle of the town.

OBADIAH JENKINS, was on 12th lot, 10th range. Abel Adams succeeded him, he moved to Dublin, 1857.

DAVID JENKINS, lived on 10th lot, 10th range but left and went to 10th lot and 13th range, the William Howard place, now owned by Asa Davis, Jr.

JONATHAN JENKINS, was on 11th lot and 10th range. John Farrar afterwards owned it, also Noah Blodgett and Job Barrett lived there.

NATHANIEL JOSLIN, owned 10th lot in 15th range. Stephen C. his son inherited it but left and went to Marlow.

DAVID JOSLIN, lived on 14th lot and 16th range. Luke Joslin lived there after him but sold to Edward Reed and moved to the middle of the town.

JONATHAN JEFFS, owned a large tract of land in the north-west corner of the town. Gilbert, his son lives on the old farm.

# THE FATHERS OF NEW ENGLAND.

*Written for the History of Stoddard, by Norman A. Tuttle.*

— O —

Across the wild Atlantic's roar,  
Whose waters mingle far and wide,  
And wash the fair New England shore,  
Of ours the gift, and ours the pride.  
Across the billowy sea of old,  
There lived a stalwart holy band,  
Who sought where they, in peace might dwell,  
And fled their own proud Fatherland.

Though years have swiftly circled round,  
And quietly through their seasons run;  
Though ages gone and past recall,  
Will never more to earth return,  
Yet still methinks in fancy bright  
I see those bold and fearless few;  
In sacred councils gathered there,  
Their lives to pledge, their faith renew.

Behold them leaving Europe's shore,  
Where persecution's cruel rod  
Pursued, with unrelenting power,  
With prayers arising unto God.  
Behold them board that noble ship,  
The Mayflower, sacred be the name.  
With hearts of living faith; to face  
The dangers of the stormy main.

Be theirs, the story often told;  
With songs of triumph, lips of praise;  
Yet let their deeds, forever be  
A monument whereon to gaze.  
And as the generations pass,  
Like breaking clouds before the sun;  
Perchance 'twill wake some dying thought  
Of glories past, of battles won.



How slowly o'er the trackless deep,  
That noble ship, bears on her way;  
The stormy winds in fury sweep,  
And clouds hang round in dark array  
Yet centered are their hopes in Him,  
Who stays the wild and wintery storm;  
Who ruleth o'er the waters dim,  
And bids the rolling sea, be calm.

Long days of toil, and care untold;  
Long months of hardships calmly bore,  
Passed o'er them, ere they hailed the coast,  
And pressed the wild and savage shore,  
On "Plymouth Rock" at last they stood;  
Enveloped in its wintery shroud;  
Around them came the sweeping blast,  
The waters murmured deep and loud.

Upon that cold and sterile shore,  
Beneath the chilling wintery air,  
Those honored Fathers, lifted up  
Their hearts in earnest, thankful prayer,  
They reared their huts upon the sand,  
With glowing altars, trusting faith  
They planted there, our Pilgrim land  
Amid the sound and wail of death.

Swift years sped on, yet still those few,  
In whom a despots' watchful care  
Could ne'er the voice of *conscience* still,  
Nor set the seal of silence there,  
Came onward o'er the surging wave  
To tread the rugged western shore;  
To dwell beneath the forest shade,  
And flee proud Albion evermore.

Through fire and blood, through dangers wild,  
Through gloomy forests, deep and wide,  
Those honored Fathers, fought their way,  
With heaven to help, and heaven to guide,  
The Indian fell beneath their stroke,  
And backward rolled his steady way,  
The Pilgrim pressed his onward march,  
No power could stop, no hand could stay

O! shall their glory ever fade  
Their daring deeds e'er be forgot  
While sons can tell the fearful tale  
While their graves, the land doth dot?  
No, while every hill and every vale  
Is eloquent, though voiceless still;  
And speak the words, no tongue can tell,  
Their memory lives, and ever will.

Let Massachusetts speak and tell  
Her tale of desolation, made  
By ruthless hands, and savage foe,  
Of sons in death forever laid.  
Old Deerfield let her voice be heard,  
And speak her tale of fire and woe,  
Of death shrieks rising loud and high,  
Of hearts and homes laid sad and low.

Ye state of hills, and mounts sublime,  
Ye state, whose rivers reach the sea:  
Whose towers of Granite pierce the sky,  
And stand, bold guardians of the free,  
"Old Granite State" as speeds thy course  
Of honor, wealth and sounding fame:  
Forget not those of olden time,  
Who lived, and died with scarce a name.

Forget not those of early days,  
Who fought and bled their homes to save;  
Though, in quiet graves they lie,  
Let generations call them brave,  
Let no proud shaft of marble rise,  
Their deeds to tell, their tale impart  
But let their deeds, their names, their words  
Be deeply graven on the heart.

New England! thou art worth the price  
That bought thee; thine own soil  
Stands unpoluted and uncurs'd,  
With galling chains, and driven toil,  
O! stand forever, firm and bold:  
Stand from oppression's proud behest  
Then shall thy sons as ages roll,  
Rise up, and call thee "ever blest."

# Persons Married by Isaac Robinson,

OF STODDARD, N. H.

Amos Thomson and Lucy Holmes, married.....	March 15, 1803
Jesse Hardy and Jenny Hardy.....	Jan. 15, 1804
William Henry and Lucy Gilson.....	Feb. 22, 1804
John Wilson and Phebe Spaulding.....	April 11, 1804
Daniel Towne and Sukey Evans.....	May 30, 1804
Jacob S. Hutchinson and Lucy Jenkins.....	Nov. 24, 1804
William Pitcher and Betsey Adams.....	Feb. 17, 1805
Nathaniel Barrett and Loeie Stevens.....	Feb. 13, 1805
Moody Cutter and Henrietta Fisher.....	April 10, 1805
John Barden and Achsa Proctor.....	May 2, 1805
Benjamin Temple and Alsa Jenkins.....	May 19, 1805
Ezra Smith and Hannah Henry.....	May 30, 1805
Asa Davis and Nabby Hodgman.....	June 6, 1805
Oliver Hodgman and Lydia Towne.....	June 6, 1805
Andrew Cram and Sally Towne.....	Sept. 30, 1805
Abraham Copeland and Anna Spaulding.....	Nov. 24, 1805
Benjamin Knight and Lucy Barden.....	Dec. 10, 1805
Ephraim Adams and Anna Kinney.....	Dec. 26, 1805
John Stevens and Azubah Proctor.....	Feb. 25, 1806
Silas Towne and Becca Joslin.....	Nov. 27, 1806
Levi Blood and Polly Raymond.....	Jan. 8, 1807
Thomas Nichols, Jr. and Pruda Thomson.....	Jan. 28, 1807
Parker Shattuck and Betsey Morrison.....	June 1, 1807
Samuel Scayer and Rebecca Brooks.....	July 5, 1807
Stephen Adams and Becca Whitecomb.....	July 16, 1807
Abel Stacy and Anna Hardy.....	Nov. 22, 1807
Elisha Woods and Submit Hodgman.....	Nov. 26, 1807
Moses Brown and Ruth Young.....	Dec. 30, 1807
Jephtha Wright and Betsey Emerson.....	Dec. 10, 1807
Nahum Thompson and Nancy Thompson.....	Feb. 3, 1808
Archelaus Cram and Benuah Kinney.....	Feb. 11, 1808
James Hunter and Hannah Goodale.....	March 1, 1808
Josiah Young and Polly Barden.....	May 15, 1808
William Howard and Betsey Dunn.....	May 22, 1808
Thomas Clark and Rhoda Kinney.....	Aug. 9, 1808

Daniel Holt and Lydia Pike,	Nov. 21, 1808
Andrew Hardy and Susannah Jenkins,	Feb. 28, 1808
Jonathan Emerson and Polly Reed,	March 5, 1809
John Williams and Margrett Henry,	March 16, 1809
Joel Sawyer and Sukey Davis,	May 9, 1809
James Hathaway and Catharine Pitcher,	June 4, 1809
Daniel Farnsworth and Polly Farnsworth,	July 13, 1809
Webster Ring and Mary Nilson,	June 14, 1810
Stephen Mead, Jr., and Sally Stevens,	June 14, 1810
Charles Wright and Polly Barney,	Sept. 24, 1812
David Copeland and Jernsha Gerould,	Dec. 22, 1812
Lemuel Towne and Dolly Knight,	Jan. 12, 1813
Nathaniel Worcester and Lucy Fox	Jan. 21, 1813
Gardner Hodgman and Cynthia Wood,	Feb. 24, 1813
Jacob Ames and Martha Farnsworth,	April 29, 1813
Thomas Spaulding and Sarah Champney,	April 20, 1813
Obed Hale and Nancy Davis,	Sept. 7, 1813
Joseph Wood and Susannah Fisher,	Sept. 9, 1813
Samuel Stacy and Mary Hardy,	Nov. 11, 1813
Archibald Towne and Clarissa Gerould,	Dec. 14, 1813
Nathaniel Evens and Rhoda Copeland,	Jan. 10, 1814
William Tuttle and Rebecca Richardson,	March 22, 1814
William Wilson and Rhoda Gould,	May 3, 1814
Heman Fisher and Fanny Evans,	June 2, 1814
William Shedd and Mame Spaulding,	June 21, 1814
Samuel Gerould and Salome Keith,	Oct. 25, 1814
Isaac Fisher and Sarah Barrett,	Oct. 26, 1814
Alphaus Wright and Nancy Messenger,	Dec. 22, 1814
Daniel Phelps and Mary Munroe,	Jan. 22, 1815
Joseph Brown and Abigail Locke,	June 7, 1815
Richard Gould and Lydia Upton,	Sept. 13, 1815
Jesse Pike and Anna Green,	Nov. 8, 1815
Gardner Brooks and Sarah Howard,	Dec. 7, 1815
Amaziah Carter and Margaret Scott,	Dec. 24, 1815
Jonathan F. Sanderson and Christiana Towne,	Jan. 10, 1816
Samuel Upton and Lucy Towne,	Feb. 13, 1816
Samuel S. Blood and Emily Monroe,	March 7, 1816
Jonathan Shedd and Patty Wright,	May 16, 1816
Daniel Warren and Susan Spaulding,	June 3, 1816
Antipas Dodge and Mary Marvil,	July 18, 1816
James Wood and Hannah Jeffs,	Sept. 19, 1816
Samuel O. Green and Mary Ball,	Oct. 22, 1816
Isaiah Gould and Susan Joslin,	Nov. 5, 1816

Bethuel Thompson and Aseneth Wood,	Nov. 5, 1816
John Watts and Sybil Barrett,	Jan. 7, 1817
Jonathan Knight and Dolly Joslin,	Jan. 11, 1817
Daniel Rust and Susanna Towne,	Jan. 11, 1817
Joel Tenney and Lavina Messenger,	March 20, 1817
Kimball Danforth and Tryphena F. Brooks,	Sept. 3, 1817
William Howard and Lucinda Chase,	Feb. 17, 1817
Allison Gilson and Orinda Richardson,	April 1, 1817
Marcus Richardson and Anna Locke,	April 15, 1817
Josiah Henshaw and Elizabeth Greene,	May 27, 1817
Joseph Knight and Roxanna Pitcher,	June 19, 1817
Josiah Colony and Hannah Taylor,	Aug. 17, 1817
Enos Locke and Harriett Wilson,	Sept. 16, 1817
Samuel Hardy and Eunice Burbank,	Sept. 17, 1817
Theodore Richardson and Rebecca Howard,	Sept. 18, 1817
Moses Richardson and Electa Joslin,	Dec. 2, 1817
John Raymond and Lydia Davis,	Dec. 4, 1817
Roswell Loveland and Lucinda Stevens,	Dec. 9, 1817
Nathan Gould and Zilpha Carey,	Dec. 23, 1817
John Joslin and Azubah Tarble,	Dec. 23, 1817
Ambrose L. Varnum and Rebecca Stacy,	Dec. 25, 1817
Archelaus Towne and Ruth Kenney,	Jan. 22, 1818
Hervey Fisher and Charlotte Copeland,	Feb. 10, 1818
Benjamin Adams and Lucy Tuttle,	March 22, 1818
Thomas Seward and Sally Dodge,	March 31, 1818
Timothy Barney and Sally Proctor,	April 11, 1818
Asa Stevens and Betsey E. Thompson,	May 19, 1818
Elijah Dodge and Patty Howard,	Sept. 17, 1818
William W. Howard and Candace Brooks,	Oct. 29, 1818
Lehabod H. Fletcher and Betna Barden,	Oct. 29, 1818
John Phelps and Electa Gerould,	Dec. 15, 1818
Samuel Smith and Sophia Dowe,	Feb. 19, 1819
Levi Warren and Lucy Towne,	Feb. 18, 1819
David Joslin and Lucy Knight,	March 11, 1819
Asa Chandler and Sarah Fisher,	April 6, 1819
Abijah Jenkins and Mary Wilson,	May 20, 1819
Gilbert Richards and Susan Joslin,	Sept. 23, 1819
John Henry and Roxanna Parmenter,	April 20, 1820
Noah Rlodgett and Fanny Joslin,	April 27, 1820
Eleazar Woodward and Hannah Meurs,	May 4, 1820
James Moor and Catharine Cram,	May 11, 1820
Samuel Messenger and Nancy Phelps,	June 8, 1820
Josiah Farnon and Rhoda Manning,	July 12, 1820

Isaac Fisher and Mary D. Copeland,	Jan. 9, 1821
Asa Adams Reed and Sarah Davis,	Jan. 16, 1821
Luther Barrett and Mary Greene,	Jan. 25, 1821
Jonathan Jeffs and Almira Hodgman,	May 10, 1821
Henry Sawyer and Roxanna Emerson,	April 1, 1821
Jesse Wilder and Dolly Holmes,	Oct. 4, 1821
Timothy Barney and Theodosia Kingsbury,	Feb. 14, 1822
Joel Mansfield and Belinda Barden,	Feb. 27, 1822
Samuel Messenger and Sally Bend,	June 6, 1822
Abner Raymond and Clarissa Wilson,	June 25, 1822
Benjamin Fisher and Melissa Woods,	Oct. 8, 1822
Eber Pike and Mary Daken,	Dec. 14, 1822
Leonard Hoar and Pamela Hodgman,	Dec. 17, 1822
Calvin Phelps and Sally Fox,	March 13, 1823
William Harndon and Betsey Wilson,	March 16, 1823
Otis Barden and Edy Farnum,	May 1, 1823
John O. Henshaw, and Mary Greene,	May 4, 1823
Ebenezer Towne and Tryphena Cory,	May 29, 1823
Collins Whittimore and Sally Wilson,	May 29, 1823
Asahel Hill and Hannah Barden,	July 9, 1823
Stephen Wood and Maria Foster,	Nov. 4, 1823
Willard Spaulding and Abigail Taylor,	Nov. 23, 1823
Lewis Barden and Sally Stacy,	Dec. 18, 1823
Levi McIntire and Mary Tuttle,	Dec. 21, 1823
Nathaniel Friend and Sophia Dow,	Dec. 25, 1823
Ralph Dodge and Betsey Tarble,	Jan. 1, 1824
John Waters and Olive Richardson,	Feb. 3, 1824
Caleb Colburn and Jane H. Kemp,	April 22, 1824
Stephen Wilson and Louise Gould,	May 31, 1824
David McQuestion and Pamela Richardson,	July 15, 1824
John Greene and Sarah Brown,	Oct. 5, 1824
Rufus Wilson and Cynthia Richardson,	Nov. 11, 1824
Rufus Dodge and Cordelia Messenger,	Nov. 18, 1824
Luke Joslin and Lydia Foster,	Nov. 24, 1824
Elvira Parmenter and Electa Howard,	Dec. 30, 1824
Stearns Foster and Cynthia Wilson,	Feb. 3, 1824
Thomas Hodgman and Esther Shed,	March 3, 1825
Nathan Atwood and Dolly Farnum,	March 22, 1825
Thomas Richardson and Nancy Kemp,	March 23, 1825
Justin Pease and Nancy Knight,	March 24, 1825
Thomas Colburn and Catharine Reed,	April 19, 1825
Samuel Royce and Mary Buss,	June 1, 1825
Thomas Sanderson and Sally Reed,	June 2, 1825

Ezekiel Barden and Sophia Upton.....	June 16, 1825
Benjamin Jeffs and Olive Reed.....	July 6, 1825
John Smith and Irene Barden.....	Jan. 22, 1826
Silas Warner and Ada Alexander.....	Feb. 5, 1826
Jesse Reed and Sally McIntire.....	Feb. 9, 1826
Moses Collins and Electa Temple.....	Feb. 16, 1826
Oliver Gould and Mary Upton.....	Feb. 16, 1826
Franklin Barker and Betsey Blood.....	April 26, 1826
Cyrus Harris and Lucy Cary.....	April 20, 1826
Stephen Tuttle and Susanna Wilson.....	Aug. 27, 1826
Asa Whittenmore and Lucy Brown.....	Nov. 26, 1826
Calvin Hollowel and Hannah Flint.....	April 19, 1827
John Barns and Rachel Mansfield.....	Nov. 5, 1827
Olias Hardy and Lavinia Barden.....	Nov. 29, 1827
Elijah Blanchard and Polly Friend.....	Dec. 27, 1827
Lyman Copeland and Julia Richardson.....	Feb. 5, 1828
Zolya Baker and Sally Holmes.....	May 8, 1828
Jacob Taylor and Mary Hamden.....	June 28, 1828
John Joslin and Harriett Irene White.....	July 7, 1828
Jonah Ball and Mary Spaulding.....	Sept. 3, 1828
Silas Messenger and Arvilla L. Copeland.....	Sept. 11, 1828
Asa Taft and Nancy Burnap.....	Sept. 30, 1828
Mark Gillis and Elvira Wilson.....	Feb. 3, 1829
Samuel Upton and Louisa Pitcher.....	April 30, 1829
Samuel Jenkins and Nancy Reed.....	Aug. 18, 1829
Samuel Keith and Rhoda S. Gerould.....	Aug. 26, 1829
Solomon Mack and Adaline Knight.....	Sept. 22, 1829
Paul Griswold and Laura Bolster.....	Nov. 24, 1829
William Noy and Diadema Cram.....	Nov. 19, 1829
Melvin Barney and Nancy M. Thompson.....	Nov. 26, 1829
Marshall Messenger and Nancy Friend.....	Dec. 3, 1829
Thomas McMaster and Lydia C. Thompson.....	Dec. 28, 1828
Mark Bowers and Selina Foster.....	Feb. 16, 1830
Nathan Morse and Jane Robb.....	April 1, 1830
Alpheus Kendall and Meroa Dodge.....	April 20, 1830
Joseph Richardson and Sally Dunn.....	April 27, 1830
Harvey Healy and Elizabeth Richardson.....	May 27, 1830
Isalah Reed and Lucinda Dodge.....	Aug. 12, 1830
Frederick A. Cutter and Hepsibeth P. Butterfield.....	Aug. 29, 1830
Lotyrus Parmenter and Ursula C. Mellen.....	Sept. 2, 1830
John M. Fay and Mary Evans.....	Nov. 11, 1830
Nathaniel Joslin and Anna Thompson.....	Jan. 1, 1831
Thomas Chandler and Lucy Towne.....	Feb. 3, 1831

Stearns Tarbox and Nancy Smith,	April 3, 1831
Joseph Wagh and Fanny Dow,	April 4, 1831
Benjamin Tyler and Laura Taylor,	May 30, 1831
Amos Robbins and Randilla Pike,	May 3, 1831
Jonas Taylor and Rhoda Evans,	Oct. 2, 1831
Jonas P. Reed and Ann Waldron,	Oct. 20, 1831
Charles Fogg and Roxa Farnum,	Nov. 2, 1831
Franklin Richardson and Harriett Wilson,	Nov. 24, 1831
Jesse Sheldon and Sarah Emerson,	Dec. 29, 1831
Gilman Tenney and Sally Cram,	Feb. 21, 1832
Nehemiah Richardson and Roxanna Howard,	Feb. 23, 1832
Jesse Reed and Clarissa McIntire,	March 15, 1832
Lawson Belknap and Sally Monroe,	May 2, 1832
John H. Sawtell and Clarissa Towne,	July 11, 1832
Israel F. Towne and Lucretia Taylor,	Oct. 9, 1832
Samuel Blanchard and Hannah Friend,	March 21, 1833
Henry Stevens and Hannah Scott,	June 2, 1833
Benjamin F. Whittemore and Sylvia K. Wilson,	June 6, 1833
Jeremiah Foster and Mary Temple,	June 11, 1833
Warren McIntire and Harriett Underwood,	Oct. 1, 1833
Luther Richardson and Lucy T. Davis,	Oct. 3, 1833
Edward Haywood and Emily Foster,	Oct. 10, 1833
David T. Petts and Phebe Stevens,	Oct. 22, 1833
Hosea Foster and Mary G. Rice,	Nov. 7, 1833
Paupoint Kendall and Betsey Wilson,	Jan. 7, 1833
John Stevens and Mary Stacy,	Jan. 16, 1833
Allen M. Wilder and Caroline Emerson,	March 24, 1834
Reuben Monroe and Margaret Dowe,	May 13, 1834
David Stacy and Louisa Cstice,	July 6, 1834
Ira Brockway and Hannah Jeffs,	Aug. 21, 1834
Ephriam C. Hull and Lucy C. Locke,	Oct. 9, 1834
Levi Barrett and Julia Thompson,	Oct. 23, 1834
Gilman Scripture and Azubah Stevens,	April 16, 1835
Abraham P. Nichols and Althea Dodge,	July 27, 1835
David Preston and Belinda Davis,	Oct. 22, 1835
Edward L. Vose and Aurelia Wilson,	Oct. 29, 1835
Chester Blodgett and Azubah P. Barden,	Jan. 17, 1836
Richard Knapp and Rhoda A. Dodge,	April 11, 1836
Daniel Upton and Mary Robb,	May 5, 1836
Marshall Messenger and Fanny M. Holmes,	July 14, 1836
Chauncy Blodgett and Esther Comstock,	Aug. 30, 1836
Gilman Jones and Eliza Towne,	Sept. 28, 1836



William Hastings and Lestina Emerson.....	Nov. 13, 1836
Marcus Davis and Lydia L. Wilson.....	Dec. 27, 1836
George Ring and Louisa Knowlton.....	Dec. 29, 1836
Silas Cram and Persis L. Dow.....	Dec. 29, 1836
Eliphalet Fox and Mary Barker.....	April 18, 1837
Alvin White and Susanna Heath.....	May 1, 1837
Reuben M. Sawyer and Mary Preston.....	May 18, 1837
Samuel G. Barker and Sarah Towne.....	May 18, 1837
Leonard Jones and Rachel Spaulding.....	June 7, 1837
Jonathan Clark and Sophronia Reed.....	Aug. 27, 1837
Mark B. Woodbury and Emily Wilson.....	Sept. 26, 1837
Daniel Harvey and Fatima Shed.....	Oct. 12, 1837
Griffin Wilson and Elizabeth Stevens.....	Nov. 24, 1837
Elanson C. Brown and Nancy Davis.....	Nov. 28, 1837
Richard Razez and Ann Metcalf.....	Dec. 21, 1837
Ambrose Stanley and Susan Emerson.....	Dec. 28, 1837
John Barrett and Sally Dow.....	Dec. 31, 1837
E. B. Towne and Almada Wilson.....	Aug. 1838
Josiah Fleeman and Candace G. Knight.....	Oct. 1, 1838
Joseph Thatcher and Nancy Joslin.....	Dec. 27, 1838
Franklin Knowlton and Persis Stacy.....	Jan. 21, 1839
Chauncy Jones and Abigail Loveland.....	Feb. 5, 1839
Timothy Hunt and Tryphena Fisher.....	March 5, 1839
Dexter Ball and Hannah Brockway.....	Aug. 25, 1839
Aaron Smith and Martha M. Page.....	Sept. 5, 1839
Elijah Wetherbee and Fanny E. Munroe.....	Oct. 3, 1839
Joseph C. Stickney and Rachel D. Cram.....	Dec. 5, 1839
William Dole and Laura Dowe.....	Jan. 16, 1840
Jonathan Green and Abby D. Worcester.....	May 7, 1840
Isaac P. Howe and Laurinda Jenkins.....	June 4, 1840
Bethuel Greene and Lydia Upton.....	Dec. 21, 1840
Caleb P. Woodbury and Emily A. Cutter.....	Dec. 21, 1840
Samuel Osgood and Elizabeth K. Hunt.....	Feb. 25, 1841
Azel Hatch and Mary F. Worcester.....	Sept. 9, 1841
Daniel Downing and Lucy T. Upton.....	Sept. 30, 1841
Edwin L. Merriek and Lucy R. Rice.....	Feb. 15, 1842
David Barron and Sabrina Kemp.....	March 6, 1842
Gardner T. Ring and Sophronia Knowlton.....	March 10, 1842
Charles Worcester and Harriett N. Barker.....	June 16, 1842
Andrew Cram and Mary Henshaw.....	Nov. 9, 1842
Nathaniel Mitchel and Harriett E. Knowlton.....	Feb. 20, 1843
Sewell Day and Hannah Wilson.....	May 16, 1843
Asa Davis, Jr., and Sophronia L. Gould.....	Nov. 28, 1843

Francis Jewett and Selina A. Dodge.....	April 4, 1844
Philip W. Wilds and Lucinda Loveland.....	April 4, 1844
Sunmer Knight and Martha Phelps.....	June 2, 1844
Hartwell Frink and Sarah D. Jeffs.....	Sept. 24, 1844
Alden Davis and Hannah E. Upton.....	June 5, 1845
Samuel L. Sloder and Mary L. Loomis.....	June 19, 1845
Franklin B. Locke and Lucy B. Sanderson.....	Aug. 27, 1845
Edwin L. Merriek and Rhoda Ann Rice.....	Sept. 11, 1845
John B. Brown and Lavina B. Chase.....	Dec. 18, 1845
Gardner Towne, Jr., and Susan W. Locke.....	Dec. 25, 1845
William Dodge and Sarah Ann Stacy.....	Jan. 20, 1846
Atwell C. Ellis and Nancy Adams.....	Feb. 3, 1846
Edward Hall and Harriett Robinson.....	March 10, 1846
John Mellen' and Rebecca W. Phelps.....	March 3, 1846
Winslow Royce and Susan R. Barden.....	June 3, 1846
Josiah Grimes and Amy Dodge.....	June 16, 1846
E. G. Dudley and Christianna Duncan.....	Oct. 6, 1846
Lowell Symonds and Mary Jane Barrett.....	Dec. 24, 1846
Paschal P. Hodgman and Susan A. Wilson.....	Dec. 31, 1846
Nathaniel O. Osgood and Hannah Hunt.....	June 2, 1847
Franklin Kimball and Betsey Davis.....	Sept. 8, 1847
Joseph F. Moore and Lucy A. Davis.....	Feb. 8, 1848
Henry Perley and Mary Jane Stacy.....	May 18, 1848
Jonas W. Goodhue and Phebe Wilson.....	June 7, 1848
Freeman W. Jeffs and Electa Towne.....	Sept. 14, 1848
Leonard Harrington and Sophronia P. Henry.....	Oct. 5, 1848
J. Quiney Jones and Cynthia J. Gould.....	Dec. 31, 1848
Daniel W. Meurs and Charissa Upton.....	May 15, 1849
Manly McClure and Joanna A. Reed.....	Dec. 18, 1849
Daniel W. Barney and Adalaide Ayr.....	March 24, 1850
Hollis Towne and Elzina M. Carey.....	March 25, 1850
Henry G. Foster and Alicia G. Wilson.....	June 23, 1850
George Wells and Ananda Gerould.....	June 25, 1850
James Downing, Jr., and Electa Foster.....	June 27, 1850
Abel C. Wilder and Rosalva Knight.....	Sept. 26, 1850
Samuel Dutton and Lucinda McClure.....	Nov. 7, 1850
David McClure and Eliza Hart.....	Nov. 13, 1850
James Hammett and Sarah E. Foster.....	Jan. 19, 1851
Hiram Fairfield and Rebecca Eaton.....	Feb. 20, 1851
Samuel A. Wright and Lucy Towne.....	March 27, 1851
Ruel K. Conant and Julia A. Curtice.....	Oct. 6, 1851
Horatio W. Smally and Clara M. Scripture.....	Nov. 13, 1851
Solon Estey and Christina Warren.....	Dec. 11, 1851

Milan Dodge and Laura C. Bailey,	April 22, 1852
William Cloggett, Jr., and Martha L. Richardson,	Aug. 17, 1852
William Robb and Abigail Jones,	March 17, 1853
Alden Green and Lydia P. Jenkins,	Nov. 28, 1853
S. P. Jenkins and Caroline O. Powell,	Nov. 28, 1853
Charles L. Wright and Maria A. Carey,	Dec. 1, 1853
Clark H. Carr and Caroline A. Gould,	Dec. 1, 1853
Arnold Scripture and Submit Hodgman,	Jan. 17, 1854

Isaac Robinson was ordained, January 5, 1803, over the church in Stoddard, N. H. Died, July 9, 1854.

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